

PH 65-4374

In conclusion, CONSLEY stated the records of the York Corporation would not reflect the whereabouts of NICOLLS during 1935.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

PH 65-4374

Administrative Page

In order to comply with instructions set forth in Bulet dated 10/29/51, this report is being submitted.

However, the Newark office has not advised whether correspondence covering this investigation has been located.

The Philadelphia office has reviewed the following pertinent files in an effort to locate the previous investigation in this matter:

SCOTT FLEMING NICOLL

THOMAS L. BLACK

FERDINAND P. HELLER

VERA KANE

UNSUB, wa NICOLLS

However, no record was located.

REFERENCE: Bulets dated 6/14/51 and 10/29/51.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>PHILADELPHIA</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>11/14/51</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/11-9/26; 11/13/51</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>ROBERT G. JENSEN (nch)</b>
TITLE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; wa, Nichols East Rutherford, New Jersey THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

FERDINAND P. HELLER states ARTHUR NICHOLS, a truck driver while employed at Franco-American Chemical Co., Carlstadt, N. J. NICHOLS had access to only routine material normally available to truck drivers. NICHOLS left Franco-American in 1932. In 1935 NICHOLS was an adjuster with an insurance firm. NICHOLS is not a technical man, only a highschool graduate. At York, Pa., J. C. CONSLEY, Vice-President, York Corporation, states engineers of firm were in the field in 1935 conducting research studies and experiments. SCOTT FLEMING NICOLL, an engineer with this firm, had done research work in air conditioning in and around New York City in 1935. CONSLEY stated on many visits to NICOLL's home, he has never seen a microscope. NICOLL had as a hobby, boat-building. CONSLEY also stated records of York Corporation would not reflect the whereabouts of NICOLL in 1935.

R-U-C

DETAILS: At Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

FERDINAND P. HELLER on September 26, 1951 advised that ARTHUR NICHOLS rather than NICHOLAS had been a fellow employee at Franco-American

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT				
⑤ BUREAU (65-59395) 3 NEWARK (65-4116) 1 NEW YORK (Info. 65-15474) 3 PHILADELPHIA (65-4374)				

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 11/16/51

FROM : SAC, Newark (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Nichols,  
East Rutherford, New Jersey;  
THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant;  
ESPIONAGE - R

b-1  
Re Pittsburgh let to Bureau, August 13, 1951, with copy to Newark.

It is requested that the Pittsburgh Office submit the information contained in referenced let in report form, copies designated for the Bureau and Newark.

BET: KWF

CC - Pittsburgh (65-1453)

NO! SEE BULET TO  
NEWARK & PITTSBURGH  
12-4-51. ER

RECORDED - 114

INDEXED - 114

65-59395-37

NOV 23 1951

24

HANDED BY  
STOP DESK  
11/16/51

J. J. G.  
J. J. G.

SAC, Newark (65-4116)

December 4, 1951

Director, FBI (65-59395) - 37

RECORDED UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
Nichols ESPIONAGE - R

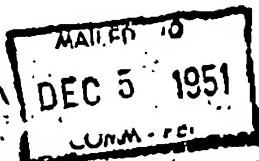
Ref Newark letter 11-16-51, requesting the Pittsburgh Office to submit information contained in Pittsburgh letter to Bureau August 13, 1951, in report form.

In view of the negative character of the information and the fact that the subject of instant case is unknown and no dissemination is being made, it will not be necessary for Pittsburgh to put the information in report form. Pittsburgh should therefore disregard Newark request of 11-16-51.

cc - Pittsburgh (65-1453)

KL:emg

gine



85 DEC 7 1951

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: November 20, 1951

FROM : SAC, Newark (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa., Nichols  
East Rutherford, New Jersey  
THOMAS L BLACK - INFORMANT  
ESPIONAGE - R

Rebulet to Philadelphia 10/29/51.

Review of Newark files fails to reflect receipt of any communication from Philadelphia in coverage of leads set out in Bulet of June 14, 1951.

BET:HMT

RECORDED - 114 | 65-59395-38  
INDEXED - 114 | NOV 20 1951  
EL

SEARCHED BY  
STOP DISK  
11/20/51

EL 10-11-57  
SEARCHED

SAC, Philadelphia (65-4374)

RECORDED - 110

Director, FBI (65-59395) - 38

EX-141

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, MA., Nichols

EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

THOMAS L. BLACK - INFORMANT

ESPIONAGE - R

December 17, 1952

Re Philadelphia letter 10-2-51 which stated as follows:

"Investigation requested rebulet was covered and it is believed that it was furnished to the Bureau in early August 1952. The office copies of the correspondence were apparently sent to the Bureau together with the Bureau copies.

"It is requested that the Bureau check its file and return to Philadelphia the Philadelphia copies of the report or letter."

A review of Newark files (the office of origin) as set out in Newark letter 11-20-51 failed to locate above-referred to correspondence.

A search of Bufiles disclosed no evidence that the above-referred-to correspondence was received at the Bureau.

The Bureau maintains abstract slips as well as index cards pertaining to various correspondence. There is no abstract slip or index card on file relating to the alleged missing correspondence.

Philadelphia should make a thorough search of its files as well as check with the agent to whom the case was assigned and the stenographer to whom the correspondence was dictated to determine if the matter was actually dictated and transcribed.

The Bureau is in receipt of Philadelphia report of SA Robert G. Jensen 11-14-51 which sets out the results of the coverage of the lead as set out in Bulet 6-14-51.

The question to be resolved now is whether or not there is actually a missing report or if, in fact, the matter was not transcribed in the first instance. *RECEIVED-WVII-YOOG*

You should handle this matter promptly and advise the Bureau of the results of your efforts.

cc - Newark (65-4116)

COMM - FBI  
DEC 17 1951  
MAILED 27

WJB  
gj

ELIMINATED

5 DECEMBER 1951

SECURITY INFORMATION  
CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/16/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5; 10/10, 13, 16, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31; 11/1, 6/5	REPORT MADE BY BLAKE E. TURNER . kwt
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

*9-8752  
3/30/52 ee*

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Background obtained and set out on WILLIAM and SAMUEL NICHOLS, Rutherford, New Jersey, who are apparently not identical with the Unknown Subject. No information available on J. B. NICHOLS, whose name listed in 1934 to 1936 telephone directories. Neighbors recall only a MRS. NICHOLS living at the address listed for J. B. NICHOLS in 1935-1936. W. A. NICHOLS, 234 Feronia Way, Rutherford, reportedly a brother of ANNA NICHOLS, who has resided at 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford, since before 1925. W. W. NICHOLS employed as a draftsman at LUMMUS COMPANY, Bayonne, New Jersey, with headquarters in New York City, and reportedly resided 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey prior to 1939.

~~EXPIRED 12/31/51~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY ROUTING

P.

SLIP(S) OF Declass

DATE 2/21/78 RT/647

Details:

The following individuals named NICHOLS, because of their residence in Rutherford, New Jersey in 1935, and their employments as indicated in the city directory, were identified as reflected below to determine whether they could be identical with the Unknown Subject.

COPIES DESTROYED

K 12 NOV 23 1960

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
01/18/78 AP/CB

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED: S. K. M. (cc)

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

INDEXED *77*

COPIES OF THIS REPORT	PROPERTY OF FBI
5 Bureau (65-59395) 1 New York (Info.) (65-15474) 1 Washington Field (Info.), 3 Newark (65-4116)	RECORDED <i>77</i> This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.
STAT SEC	

63 DEC 12 1951

NK 65-4116

1. WARD W. NICHOLS  
230 Union Avenue  
Rutherford, New Jersey

The 1931 Rutherford City Directory lists the above individual as an architectural engineer at Long Island, New York.

The 1950 Passaic-Bergen Counties Telephone Directory for Rutherford lists a MISS A. J. NICHOLS at instant address.

In the 1930-1931 and 1946 Rutherford City Directory, a MISS ANNA J. NICHOLS is shown at instant address and described as a stenographer and notary public in New York.

MRS. CHARLES LIEBENSBERGER, 220 Union Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey, stated that she has resided at this address since 1925 except for the period from 1941-1947. She stated that she knew of one ANNA NICHOLS and her mother (first name unknown), who have resided at 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford since prior to 1925. MRS. NICHOLS was apparently a widow at that time, and has never remarried. She and her unmarried daughter, ANNA NICHOLS, commute daily to New York City where they are both employed in unknown capacities.

MRS. LIEBENSBERGER stated that they have been renting the second floor at instant address since before 1925, and the property is now owned by ELWOOD S. NEW, 6 Ames Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey. She further advised that MRS. NICHOLS is very elderly, and that ANNA, her daughter, is middle-aged.

She further advised that MRS. NICHOLS has a son, whose name she believes is WARD W. NICHOLS, who resides at 234 Feronia Way, Rutherford. She could furnish no further information regarding WARD NICHOLS except that she believes he formerly lived with his mother and sister prior to 1939.

MRS. LIEBENSBERGER added that she considers the entire family to be loyal Americans.

It will be noted that the 1951 telephone directory for Rutherford lists a W. W. NICHOLS at 234 Feronia Way, Rutherford, New Jersey.

*W.M. J. H.R.S.*

The 1946 Rutherford City Directory lists a WILLIAM W. NICHOLS, wife MILICENT C., at instant address, and his occupation is reflected as an engineer in New York. NICHOLS

NK 65-4116

On October 30, 1951, Newark Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that W. W. NICHOLS, 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, New Jersey, has rented property at instant address since August 29, 1939, and is employed as a draftsman by the LUMMUS COMPANY.

The New Jersey Industrial Directory for 1949 lists the LUMMUS COMPANY at East Third Street and Hobart Avenue, Bayonne, New Jersey, with headquarters at 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City. The company is described as a petroleum refinery and chemical equipment designing establishment, whose manager is W. J. BLOOMER.

2. J. B. ~~NICHOLS~~  
318 Montross Avenue  
Rutherford, New Jersey

This individual was listed in the 1934, 1935 and 1936 telephone directories for Rutherford at the above address.

JAMES A. NIXON, present occupant of 318 Montross Avenue, Rutherford, stated that he has resided here for the past ten years. He purchased a house at this address from an individual who has since left New Jersey, and whose address he does not know.

He recalled that a woman school teacher named NICHOLS formerly resided at this address prior to 1941, but could furnish no further information concerning her.

MR. NIXON added that after he purchased the house, he continued to receive mail for some time addressed to MRS. J. B. ~~NICHOLS~~, which came from Madison Square Garden, New York City, and apparently pertained to various sporting events. NIXON finally wrote on one such communication the words "Not here any more", returned it, and thereafter received no more such mail.

NIXON stated that he understood that MRS. NICHOLS had roomed here alone. He was unable to advise who owned instant house in 1935.

CHARLES and ELEANOR HILLMAN, 295 Montross Avenue, Rutherford, advised that they have resided here continuously since 1920. They recalled that a MRS. J. B. NICHOLS and her ten-year old son resided at 318 Montross Avenue, top floor, for about two years in 1935-1936. They stated MRS. NICHOLS was apparently separated or divorced from her husband, since he did not live there, and they never saw him at the house.

NK 65-4116

The HILLMANS stated that MRS. NICHOLS was related in some way to the BUTLER family who formerly owned a large grocery chain.

The HILLMANS advised that they do not know MRS. NICHOLS' present location or where she went from here, and added that no other present residents of the neighborhood were living here as far back as 1935.

3. WILLIAM NICHOLS, or  
WILLIAM L. NICHOLS  
96 Meadow Road  
Rutherford, New Jersey

This individual is listed in the 1930-1931 and 1946 city directories. His occupation is given as "laboratory", and his wife's name as EMMA.

Current telephone directory lists a W. NICHOLS at 96 Meadow Road.

The records of the Passaic-Bergen Credit Bureau, Paterson, New Jersey, reviewed by Special Agent John R. Lyons, 10/11/51, contained a report on WILLIAM NICHOLS, 96 Meadow Road, Rutherford, New Jersey, which reflected the following information:

On March 12, 1935, the Hackensack, New Jersey Water Company entered suit against NICHOLS for \$6.22 in the Hackensack, New Jersey District Court.

On 1/10/42, he was employed by the Sanitation Department, Borough of Rutherford. As of 11/8/48, he was employed at the SCOTT EXPRESS COMPANY of Rutherford. On 12/8/49, he was employed by the BELL CONTAINER CORPORATION (no city indicated). As of 5/24/51, he was reportedly employed at the BENDIX AVIATION COMPANY, Teterboro, New Jersey.

NICHOLS' file contained records of numerous suits and judgments against him.

Newark Confidential Informant T-2, a representative of another Government agency, advised on 10/23/51, that WILLIAM NICHOLS, 96 Meadow Road, Rutherford, New Jersey, is a negro who has resided at instant address for many years. Informant added that NICHOLS has held many different odd jobs locally and is not well educated.

NK 65-4116

Records of the Credit Department, SEARS, ROEBUCK & COMPANY, Passaic, New Jersey, reflected that as of 6/25/49, WILLIAM NICHOLS, a negro residing at 96 Meadow Road, Rutherford, New Jersey, was employed at the BELL CONTAINER CORPORATION, Rutherford. Prior to that time, NICHOLS had been employed for 15 years by SCOTT EXPRESS, Meadow Road, Rutherford, New Jersey.

NICHOLS was said to be 39 years of age (in 1949), was married, had three dependents, and had lived at instant address for eighteen years.

In view of the above information, WILLIAM NICHOLS is no longer being considered as a suspect in this case.

4. S. W. ~~NICHOLS~~, or  
SAMUEL ~~NICHOLS~~  
74 Meadow Road  
Rutherford, New Jersey

The above individual is listed in the 1934-1935 and current telephone directories.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised that SAMUEL NICHOLS, 74 Meadow Road, Rutherford, is a negro, aged 77 years, who formerly worked in the postal system in New York City for over 25 years and is now retired.

In view of the above information, this individual is no longer being considered as a suspect in this case.

P E N D I N G

- 5 -

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1

[REDACTED] 7d  
(who made this information available  
to SE DONALD F. PRESTON, 10/30/51  
and 11/1/51.)

T-2

[REDACTED] 7d  
JAMES KELLY  
Bill Carrier  
U. S. Post Office  
Rutherford, New Jersey  
(who furnished this information  
to SA BLAKE E. TURNER on  
10/23/51)

LEADS

NEWARK

At Bayonne, New Jersey:

Will secure all available background information regarding  
W. W. NICHOLS from employment records of the LUMMUS COMPANY, Bayonne, New  
Jersey.

At Union City, New Jersey:

Will review employment records of MERKEL & COMPANY regarding  
background information on GUSTAVE N. NICHOLSON.

\* \* \* \* \*

A copy of this report has been designated for New York for  
information in view of the possibility of further investigation in that  
vicinity.

A copy of this report has been designated for the Washington  
Field Office for information in view of their pending investigation of PAUL

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE (Continued)

PETERSON, the Soviet superior of THOMAS L. BLACK, the informant in this case.

REFERENCE

Report of SA BLAKE E. TURNER, Newark, 8/14/51.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 11/16/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5; 10/10, 13, 16, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31; 11/1, 6/5	REPORT MADE BY BLAKE E. TURNER kmf
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Background obtained and set out on WILLIAM and SAMUEL NICHOLS, Rutherford, New Jersey, who are apparently not identical with the Unknown Subject. No information available on J. B. NICHOLS, whose name listed in 1934 to 1936 telephone directories. Neighbors recall only a MRS. NICHOLS living at the address listed for J. B. NICHOLS in 1935-1936. W. A. NICHOLS, 234 Feronia Way, Rutherford, reportedly a brother of ANNA NICHOLS, who has resided at 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford, since before 1925. W. W. NICHOLS employed as a draftsman at LUMMUS COMPANY, Bayonne, New Jersey, with headquarters in New York City, and reportedly resided 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey prior to 1939.

Details:

The following individuals named NICHOLS, because of their residence in Rutherford, New Jersey in 1935, and their employments as indicated in the city directory, were identified as reflected below to determine whether they could be identical with the Unknown Subject.

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 AP/39

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		PROPERTY OF FBI			
5 Bureau (65-59395) 1 New York (Info.) (65-15474) 1 Washington Field (Info.) 3 Newark (65-4116)		This confidential report and its contents are loaned to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of agency to which loaned.			

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

# Office Memo • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

FROM : SAC, PHILADELPHIA (65-4374)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
wa Nichols  
East Rutherford, New Jersey  
THOMAS L. BLACK — INFORMANT  
ESPIONAGE — R

DATE: 1/3/52

Rebulet dated 12/17/51.

The matter listed in referenced Bulet was discussed with the Agent to whom the case was assigned. He has a recollection that a rough draft was prepared and that the interview with FERDINAND P. MILLER had been handled sometime during August 1951.

However, a search of pertinent files have failed to reflect that the rough draft in question had ever been transcribed. By the same token it was not possible to locate a record of transcription of the earlier investigation in the stenographic pool.

Accordingly it is believed that this matter can be resolved as not having been transcribed prior to the Philadelphia report dated November 14, 1951.

RGJ:DAD  
cc - Newark

RECORDED - 131

INDEXED

50 FEB 21 1952

65-59395-40

JAN 4 1952

50 FEB 1 1952

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEARK

REPORT MADE AT NEARK	DATE WHEN MADE 4/11/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/15/51-11/26/51; 1/2-3/25/52; 4/5/2	REPORT MADE BY STUART E. CHALIEQUY
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; was Nichols, East Rutherford, N. J. THOMAS L. BLACK, INFORMANT		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Background obtained and set out on GUSTAVE NICHOLSON, 134 Orchard St., East Rutherford, N. J., who apparently is not identical with the unknown subject. Employment records Lummus Co. Labs, Bayonne, N. J., failed to reflect employment of W. W. NICHOLS. LYMAN NICHOLS, 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N. J., self-employed at residence, producing optical, ocular and micrometer tools.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

The following investigation was conducted to determine if any of the persons hereafter set out may be identical with the unknown subject in this case:

GUSTAVE NICHOLSON  
134 Orchard St.  
East Rutherford, N. J.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF ~~00000000~~ DOLLARS.

DATE 2/21/52 AY/EA

The records of the Credit Bureau of North Jersey, Union City, N. J., contained a report dated 7/23/41 concerning GUSTAVE NICHOLSON, wife EMMA JANE, which reflects that NICHOLSON was employed at that time by the Merkel Butchers, 4507 Bergenline Ave., Union City, N. J.

These records contained a further report on NICHOLSON dated 10/11/49, indicating that his residence was the same and his employment was Merkel, Inc., 287 Central Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

**COPIES DESTROYED**

R 12 NOV 23 1960. J.

SEARCHED BY 4913

ON 2/18/28 APPROVED BY *[Signature]*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: S. E. C. (u)	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPY IN FILE		65-59395-41	INDEXED-135
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		PROPERTY OF FBI RECORDED-135	
5 - Bureau (65-59395) 1 - New York (info, 65-15474) 1 - WFO (info) 3 - Newark (65-4116)		This confidential information is loaned to you by the FBI and is not to be distributed outside your agency. It is to be returned to the FBI when no longer needed.	
65 AF 24 1952		EX-135	

NK. 65-4116

The reports reflect that NICHOLSON in 1949 was fifty years of age, married, with two children. He had resided at 134 Orchard St., East Rutherford, N. J., for 13 years and had been employed for over ten years by Merkel, Inc. At the time of the last report, he was employed as store manager in Union City, N. J.

Investigation reflects that GUSTAVE NICHOLSON is presently employed as a store manager of store #28, Merkel, Inc., 4507 Bergenline Ave., Union City, N. J. Instant store is a combined grocery and meat market.

In view of the above information concerning GUSTAVE NICHOLSON, he is no longer being considered as a suspect in this case.

W. W. NICHOLS  
234 Mountain Way  
Rutherford, N. J.

Mr. GEORGE MOLHANE, Office Manager, Lummus Laboratories, East Third St., and Hobart Ave., Bayonne, N. J., advised that his company has no employee named W. W. NICHOLS. MOLHANE also contacted the New York office of instant company and learned that W. W. NICHOLS is not employed there.

He further advised that the records of former employees contained no mention of W. W. NICHOLS and stated that he personally has been employed by the company for twelve years and has never known anyone by the name of W. W. NICHOLS.

Newark Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that WARD WILLIAM or WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS resides at 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, N. J., where he has resided since 1947. He lives in a one family house; is married; has two children, age 12 and 8. NICHOLS' occupation is unknown to ELY, but he stated he is undoubtedly a professional man.

ELY described him as approximately 40 years of age and stated he is regarded as a loyal and reputable man.

LYMAN NICHOLS  
111 Vreeland Ave.  
Nutley, N. J.

Records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Newark, Inc., Newark, N. J., reflect a report dated 7/40 for LYMAN NICHOLS, an inventor-scientist, who resided at 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N. J. NICHOLS was married, wife's name INEZ G., and had two children, age 10 and 14, as of the date of the report. NK 4845

The report reflected that NICHOLS had previously been employed as a consulting engineer, but at the date of the report was maintaining a complete

NK. 65-4116

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

laboratory in his home, where he experimented and produced optical, ocular, and micrometer tools. He was described as a scientist of the "Old School".

The report indicated that NICHOLS had done work for the Newark, N. J. Police Department Laboratory, the New York Police Department, and the N. J. State Police. He has also worked for CHARLES ENGLEHARD, Inc., 233 Railroad Ave., Newark, N. J.

In a report dated 7/44, it was stated that NICHOLS was doing work for the "Government", engraving on glass.

The above records were checked by SE GEORGE F. BRADFIELD.

A check of the records of the Identification Division of the N. J. State Police, Trenton, N. J., by SE GEORGE L. KRAUS, failed to reflect any information concerning LYMAN NICHOLS.

- P E N D I N G -

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

NK. 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

NEWARK OFFICE

AT PATERSON, N. J.

Will check the records of the Paterson, N. J. Credit Bureau for additional information on WILLIAM W. NICHOLS, wife MILLICENT, listed as civil engineer, 234 Feronia Way, Rutherford, N. J.

AT RUTHERFORD, N. J.

Will conduct additional investigation to develop background information on WARD WILLIAM or WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, 234 Mountain Way.

AT NEWARK, N. J.

Will review the employment records of Charles Englehard, Inc., 233 Railroad Ave., to obtain background information on LYMAN NICHOLS, 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N. J.

INFORMANT

T-1 is S. DANA ELY, Postmaster, Rutherford, N. J.

REFERENCE: Report of SA BLAKE E. TURNER, dated 11/16/51, at Newark.  
Report of SA WILLIAM R. YATES, dated 9/19/51, at New York.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEWARK**

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/17/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10/15; 11/26/51; 1/2, 3/25/52 4/5/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>STUART E. CHALIFOUX</b>
TITLE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; was. Nichols, East Rutherford, N. J. THOMAS L. BLACK, INFORMANT</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Background obtained and set out on GUSTAVE NICHOLSON, 134 Orchard St., East Rutherford, N. J., who apparently is not identical with the unknown subject. Employment records Lummus Co. Labs, Bayonne, N. J., failed to reflect employment of W. W. NICHOLS. LYMAN NICHOLS, 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N. J., self-employed at residence, producing optical, ocular and micrometer tools.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

The following investigation was conducted to determine if any of the persons hereafter set out may be identical with the unknown subject in this case:

**GUSTAVE NICHOLSON  
134 Orchard St.  
East Rutherford, N. J.**

**DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 BY CJO**

The records of the Credit Bureau of North Jersey, Union City, N. J., contained a report dated 7/23/41 concerning GUSTAVE NICHOLSON, wife EMMA JANE, which reflects that NICHOLSON was employed at that time by the Merkel Butchers, 4507 Bergenline Ave., Union City, N. J.

These records contained a further report on NICHOLSON dated 10/11/49, indicating that his residence was the same and his employment as Merkel, Inc., 287 Central Ave., Jersey City, N. J.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
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5 - Bureau (65-59395) 1 - New York (info, 65-15474) 1 - WFO (info) 3 - Newark (65-4116)		<b>PROPERTY OF FBI</b> This contains a report and its contents furnished to you by the FBI and are not to be distributed outside of Agency without prior		

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395) (Reg. Mail)

DATE: 6/3/52

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; Was., Nichols  
East Rutherford, N. J.  
~~THOMAS D. BLACK, INFORMANT~~  
ESPIONAGE - R.

Re: Report of SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX, 4/11/52, Newark, N. J.

It will be noted that in the above captioned report there was indicated that one W. W. NICHOLS, who resides at 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, New Jersey, might possibly be identical with Unknown Subject in this case. Investigation reflects that WARD WILLIAM NICHOLS, 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, N. J. attended Penn State at College Station, Pennsylvania. NICHOLS' occupation is unknown, however, he is described as approximately 40 years of age. 4-1

The Philadelphia Office is requested to conduct appropriate investigation at Penn State University to obtain complete background information on the subject as well as any information that may be in the University Files concerning his employment following his graduation from the University.

cc - Philadelphia (65-4374) (Reg. Mail)

SEC:aip

G. L. R. 3

RECORDED 24

INDEXED 24

65-59395-42

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FIVE

APR'DITE PROGRESSIVE

JUN 12 1952

68 JUN 23 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
PHILADELPHIA	6/26/52	6/16/52	ALFRED F. HELLEBERG (nac)
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, born 3/6/04 at New York. He graduated from Pennsylvania State College 6/12/28 with B. S. Degree in Architectural Engineering. Alumni records reflect NICHOLS has been employed by RCA, Riverhead, Long Island; Turner Construction Company, New York City; and County Treasurer's Office, Administration Building, Hackensack, N. J.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

At State College, Pa.

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 AP/csg

CHARLES MINWICH, Assistant Recorder, Pennsylvania State College, made available records indicating WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, born March 6, 1904, at New York, attended Pennsylvania State College from September 23, 1924 to June 12, 1928, receiving a B.S. Degree in Architectural Engineering. At the time of his matriculation, he listed his home address as 6334 Mc Callum Street, Philadelphia, and his parent as Mrs. E. H. NICHOLS, of the same address. He indicated he had graduated from the Rutherford High School, Rutherford, N. J. It is noted that the place of birth was indicated as simply New York and it is not known whether this is the State of New York or the city of New York. There was no additional information contained in the records of the Recorder's Office.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<i>A. Cornelius Deasy</i>		RECORDED - 162 INDEXED - 102
COPY IN FILE		65-59395-43
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
1 - Bureau (65-59395) 3 - Newark (65-4116) 2 - Philadelphia (65-1374)		COPIES DESTROYED JUN 27 1952 R. J. D. NOV 20 1960

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

58 JUL 16 1952

PH 65-4374

ROSS LEHMAN, Alumni Secretary, made available the records of his office reflecting that WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS' last known address was 326 Walter Avenue., Hasbrouck Heights, N. J. This address was obtained by the Alumni Office on June 6, 1936. NICHOLS' address on February 13, 1929, was indicated to be 230 Union Avenue, Rutherford, N. J. NICHOLS' employment on June 6, 1936, was indicated to be with the County Treasurer's Office, Administration Building, Hackensack, N. J. Previous to this he had been employed by the Radio Corporation of America as an inspector at Riverhead, Long Island, and the Turner Construction Company, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City, as a clerk. There was no additional information contained in the records of the Alumni Office.

It is noted that the name in the records of both the Recorder's Office and the Alumni Office was WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS rather than WARD WILLIAM NICHOLS.

At Philadelphia, Pa.

The indices of the Philadelphia Office contain no information concerning WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

~~SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED~~

PH 65-4374

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

The advisability of setting out additional leads or conducting more investigation re WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS is being left to the discretion of the office of origin.

REFERENCE:

Newark letter to Bureau, dated 6/3/52.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**NEWARK**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
PHILADELPHIA	6/26/52	6/16/52	ALFRED F. MILLERBERG (mac)
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
<b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.</b>		<b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant			

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, born 3/6/04 at New York. He graduated from Pennsylvania State College 6/12/28 with B. S. Degree in Architectural Engineering. Alumni records reflect NICHOLS has been employed by RCA, Riverhead, Long Island; Turner Construction Company, New York City; and County Treasurer's Office, Administration Building, Hackensack, N. J.

- RUC -

**DETAILS:**

At State College, Pa.

MARIE MINNICH, Assistant Recorder, Pennsylvania State College, made available records indicating WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, born March 6, 1904, at New York, attended Pennsylvania State College from September 23, 1924 to June 12, 1928, receiving a B.S. Degree in Architectural Engineering. At the time of his matriculation, he listed his home address as 613½ Mc Callum Street, Philadelphia, and his parent as Mrs. E. H. NICHOLS, of the same address. He indicated he had graduated from the Rutherford High School, Rutherford, N. J. It is noted that the place of birth was indicated as simply New York and it is not known whether this is the State of New York or the city of New York. There was no additional information contained in the records of the Recorder's Office.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE:	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT				
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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWMARK

SECURITY INFORMATION - 201  
USE ONLY INFORMATION

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 7/23/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7/8, 10, 11, 14/52	REPORT MADE BY STUART E. CHALIFOUX ddm
TITLE <u>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.</u> <u>THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</u>		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. reflect WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS graduated 1928 with a degree in Architectural Engineering. Prior to 1936 was employed by RCA, Riverhead, Long Island and Turner Construction Co., 420 Lexington Ave., New York. LYMAN NICHOLS presently residing Cherry Hurst, Fort Collins, Colorado. Acquaintance advises LYMAN NICHOLS resided Nutley, N.J. at least 20 years. Was self-employed at residence and allegedly worked on Government contract making bombsight parts during World War II. Employment records Charles Englehard Co., Newark, failed to reflect LYMAN NICHOLS ever employed.

- P - DECLASSIFIED BY 493  
ON 2/18/78 BY [signature]

## DETAILS:

WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS

Investigation by the Philadelphia Office at Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., has developed the following background information on WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, N.J.:

## COPIES DESTROYED

R 12 NOV 23 1960

Date of Birth:

3/6/04, New York

Parent:

Mrs. E. H.

NICHOLS

Rutherford High

High School Attended:

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:S. J. McKee  
SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT SELL, LEASE, RENT, BORROW, LEND,

165-59395-44

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INDEXED - 123

CONFIDENTIAL

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JULY 28 1952  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

EL GLENG

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57 AUG 18 1952

NK 65-4116

Attended:

N.J.

Pennsylvania State College  
9/23/24 to 6/12/28,  
graduated with BS Degree  
in Architectural  
Engineering.

Prior to 1936

Radio Corporation of America,  
Riverhead, Long Island,  
inspector;  
Turner Construction Co.,  
420 Lexington Ave., New York,  
clerk;  
1936

County Treasurer's Office,  
Administration Building,  
Hackensack, N.J.

1924 -

6334 McCallum St., Philadelphia,  
Pa.

1929 -

230 Union Ave., Rutherford,  
N.J.

1936 -

326 Walter Ave., Hasbrouck  
Heights, N.J.

Residences:

LYMAN NICHOLS

Newark Confidential Informant T-1, a representative of  
another Government agency, advised that LYMAN NICHOLS  
formerly resided at 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N.J. and moved  
to Cherry Hurst, Fort Collins, Colorado in December 1951.

T-1 stated that LYMAN NICHOLS was unknown to him  
personally; however, he advised that he believed that NICHOLS  
had resided in Nutley, N.J. at least 20 years.

7C

[REDACTED] Detective Bureau, Nutley, N.J. Police  
Department, advised that he had been casually acquainted with  
LYMAN NICHOLS. He stated that NICHOLS had resided in Nutley  
for at least 20 years to his knowledge and he believed that  
during that period he had always been self-employed at his  
residence.

7C

[REDACTED] stated that to the best of his knowledge, NICHOLS  
was an engineer or scientist of some sort since he had a

NK 65-4116

laboratory in his home. He stated that this fact had come to his attention during World War II when LYMAN NICHOLS had contacted the Police Department and requested that they check his house periodically during the night inasmuch as he was doing secret work for the Government. [redacted] advised that he later heard that the Government work involved had to do with bombsights or bombsight lenses. However, he was never able to ascertain exactly what it was as NICHOLS would allow no one in his laboratory nor would he ever make any statements concerning the exact nature of his work. 7c

He said that NICHOLS was a very quiet and rather aloof individual who apparently had few close friends in spite of the fact that he resided in Nutley for some 20 years.

He pointed out that up until 1947 there had been no other houses within a block of the NICHOLS' residence and that after that period the only persons who had been residing in the vicinity had lived in a large apartment project which had been built on property sold to the company by NICHOLS. In view of this [redacted] was unable to furnish the names of any persons who might have been acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS. 7c

With regard to the above information it is noted that a previous check of the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Newark, Inc., 24 Branford Place, Newark, N.J., reflected that in 1944 LYMAN NICHOLS was reported to be doing work for the "Government" engraving on glass.

As was previously reported the records of the Credit Bureau of Greater Newark, Inc. indicated that LYMAN NICHOLS had at one time been employed by Charles Englehard Inc., Newark, N.J.

Mr. JOHN KREMER, Charles Englehard Inc., (precision instruments), 850 Passaic Ave., Newark, N.J., advised that the employment records of the company failed to reflect that LYMAN NICHOLS had ever been regularly employed by that company. He stated however that it was possible that NICHOLS might have been employed in a consultant capacity at one time since no records are maintained on persons employed in such a capacity.

With reference to the above, it is noted that the Nutley City Directories for 1944 to date indicate that LYMAN NICHOLS is a consulting engineer.

NK 65-4116

S. A. NICHOLS

In the course of another investigation conducted by this Office, it was ascertained that in 1943 one S. A. NICHOLS was employed by the B. F. Sturtevant Corp. (a division of Westinghouse Electric Co.), 1060 Broad St., Newark, N.J., in the capacity of engineer.

- P -

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

One copy of this report is being furnished to the Washington Field Office for information purposes inasmuch as that office is handling investigation of PAUL PETERSEN who was the Soviet superior of Informant THOMAS L. BLACK.

For the information of the Denver Office THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, has advised that he was instructed by his superior PAUL PETERSEN in 1935 to locate one LYMAN NICHOLS (phonetic) in East Rutherford, N.J. and reestablish contact with him. PETERSEN described LYMAN NICHOLS as a metallurgist and a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who had previously given valuable information to the Soviets.

It is BLACK'S recollection that PETERSEN told him that LYMAN NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy and may have tutored Russian students at MIT.

To date investigation has failed to reflect that any graduate of MIT named NICHOLS has ever resided in East Rutherford, N.J.

In addition it is noted that Mr. IRVING BANNER, Secretary of the New York Microscopical Society, has advised that LYMAN NICHOLS has been an active member of that society for the last 10 years and is very interested in micrometer data.

LYMAN NICHOLS is described as being approximately 55 to 60 years of age, 5' 7", 160 pounds and has very sharp features.

In conducting their investigation, the Denver Office is requested to obtain detailed information if possible concerning LYMAN NICHOLS' employment and residence prior to 1935 since that is the pertinent period in this investigation.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

T-1

[REDACTED]

70

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE CONTINUED

LEADS

DENVER OFFICE

At Fort Collins, Colorado

Will conduct appropriate investigation to determine if LYMAN NICHOLS who is presently residing in Cherry Hurst, Fort Collins, Colorado is employed by a private corporation in that vicinity. If so will check employment records of the company to obtain all available background information on LYMAN NICHOLS.

NEW YORK OFFICE

At Riverhead, Long Island

Will check the employment records Radio Corporation of America and obtain all available background information on WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS.

NEWARK OFFICE

At Newark, N.J.

Will check employment records at the B. F. Sturtevant Corp. to ascertain if S. A. NICHOLS, who was employed by them in 1943, may possibly be identical with the unknown subject in this case.

At Hackensack, N.J.

Will conduct appropriate investigation at the County Treasurer's Office, Hackensack, N.J., to obtain further background information on WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS.

REFERENCE: Report of SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX, Newark, 4/11/52.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

REFUGEE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION FILE NO. 200-12111

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/23/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/8, 10, 11, 14/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>STUART E. CHALIFOUX ddm</b>
TITLE  <b>THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa. reflect WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS graduated 1928 with a degree in Architectural Engineering. Prior to 1936 was employed by RCA, Riverhead, Long Island and Turner Construction Co., 420 Lexington Ave., New York. LYMAN NICHOLS presently residing Cherry Hurst, Fort Collins, Colorado. Acquaintance advises LYMAN NICHOLS resided Nutley, N.J. at least 20 years. Was self-employed at residence and allegedly worked on Government contract making bombsight parts during World War II. Employment records Charles Englehard Co., Newark, failed to reflect LYMAN NICHOLS ever employed.

- P -

## DETAILS:

WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS

Investigation by the Philadelphia Office at Pennsylvania State College, State College, Pa., has developed the following background information on WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, 234 Mountain Way, Rutherford, N.J.:

Date of Birth:

3/6/04, New York

Parent:

Mrs. E. H.

NICHOLS

High School Attended:

Rutherford High

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

DO NOT SABOOLGE Rutherford,

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/22/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/12/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM E. ROBINSON ms</b>
TITLE  <b>N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>		

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

*PC - Phila  
CFC - 1  
11 D*

LYMAN NICHOLS is privately employed as an etcher near Fort Collins, Colorado, and prepares glass plates for handwriting, handprinting, and typewriting comparisons.

- P -

## DETAILS:

At Fort Collins, Colorado

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
LYMAN NICHOLS ON 2/18/78 APR 5 1978

Records in the Credit Bureau reflect that LYMAN NICHOLS has resided north of Fort Collins on Cherryhurst Road; and the records indicate he operates his own business, but they do not describe this business.

Confidential Informant T-1, known to be reliable, advised that LYMAN NICHOLS has been living near Fort Collins since December of 1951; and makes etching. He stated NICHOLS is interested in Microscopy also. T-1 advised that NICHOLS etches glass plates with little stars and other shaped lines so that they are used for handwriting and typewriting comparisons, as well as handprinting. He stated NICHOLS sells these all over the United

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FORWARDED: *J.C. [Signature]*SPECIAL AGENT  
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     (Reg.)  
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65-59395-45

1 AUG 25 1952

INDEXED - 64

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APPROPRIATE OFFICES  
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SPLIT SHEET  
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FILED 2/21/52

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0 AUG 29 1952

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

DN 65-761

States.

ENCLOSURES:

To Newark

Four photographs of LYMAN NICHOLS.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Confidential Informant T-1 furnished the writer with four photographs of LYMAN NICHOLS which are being transmitted to the Newark Office. He stated that he recently made these photographs of NICHOLS when NICHOLS made application for a job with a private company. He could not remember the name of this company or the details, but he stated that NICHOLS was interested in his work and invited him to come to his home sometime to see the type of work, he, NICHOLS, is doing. T-1 stated that the first time he is in the vicinity of the NICHOLS's, in the regular course of business, he will drop in and visit with Mr. NICHOLS and will subsequently have more complete information regarding him.

Identity of Informant T-1

[REDACTED]

7d

LEADS:

THE DENVER DIVISION

At Fort Collins, Colorado

Will about September 10, 1952, recontact Confidential Informant T-1 for further information.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent STUART E. CHALIFOUR  
dated July 23, 1952, at Newark.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/22/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/12/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM E. ROBINSON ms</b>
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**LYMAN NICHOLS** is privately employed as an etcher near Fort Collins, Colorado, and prepares glass plates for handwriting, handprinting, and typewriting comparisons.

- P -

## DETAILS:

At Fort Collins, ColoradoDECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 3/18/78 BY AP/CJg.LYMAN NICHOLS

Records in the Credit Bureau reflect that LYMAN NICHOLS has resided north of Fort Collins on Cherryhurst Road; and the records indicate he operates his own business; but they do not describe this business.

Confidential Informant T-1, known to be reliable, advised that LYMAN NICHOLS has been living near Fort Collins since December of 1951; and makes etching. He stated NICHOLS is interested in Microscopy also. T-1 advised that NICHOLS etches glass plates with little stars and other shaped lines so that they are used for handwriting and typewriting comparisons, as well as handprinting. He stated NICHOLS sells these all over the United

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     (Reg.)  
 2 - Denver (65-761)

Office Memo

INVESTIGATION - U.S.

UM • UNITED

GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 8/26/52

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES

BY SUBJECT: NICHOLS

ADVISED BY ROUTING

East Rutherford, N. J.;  
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant  
ESPIONAGE - RSLIP(S) OF declass  
DATE 2-21-78 AF/EMTDECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 AP/EMT

Rerep SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX dated 7/23/52 at Newark, wherein a lead was set out for the Newark Office to check employment records at the B. F. Sturtevant Corp., 1060 Broad St., Newark, N. J., in order to ascertain if S. A. NICHOLS, who was employed by that company in 1943, might possibly be identical with the subject of this case.

Mr. A. W. PORTER, Manager of the Newark Branch of B. F. Sturtevant has advised that no employment records are maintained in the Newark Office of the company. He advised that it would be necessary to check at the New York Office, 40 Wall St., New York, N. Y., to determine background information on S. A. NICHOLS. Mr. PORTER further advised that he was not personally acquainted with anyone named NICHOLS employed by that company.

The New York Office is requested to check the employment records of the B. F. Sturtevant Corp., 40 Wall St., New York City, to obtain complete background information on S. A. NICHOLS, who was employed by that company in an engineering capacity in 1943.

1 cc. New York (65-15474) REGISTERED MAIL

165-59395-46

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED - 120

AUG 29 1952

SEC:mp

INDEXED - 120

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NOV 6 SEP 5 1952

SECURITY INFORMATION

CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/19/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/2, 15/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM E. ROBINSON</b>
TITLE <b>L. M. NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>		
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  <i>IC P- Phila EFL - P.T. 11-09-52</i>	<p>Additional information regarding LYMAN NICHOLS set out.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>CR-1-1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC -</p>		
DETAILS:	<u>AT FORT COLLINS, COLORADO</u>		
<p>Confidential Informant DN T-1, of known reliability, stated he has obtained additional information regarding LYMAN NICHOLS.</p> <p>T-1 advised that LYMAN NICHOLS who previously resided near Fort Collins, was born at Trenton, New Jersey and lived most of his life at Nutley, New Jersey. He stated he has a brother in Jacksonville, Florida. He is a retired Colonel and a son who has been in the Air Force. T-1 stated the son of NICHOLS was working for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Fort Collins area but is now working on a Beetle Control Project on the Western Slope.</p> <p>T-1 stated that LYMAN NICHOLS lives with his wife and daughter at home and recently joined the International Society for Identification. He stated LYMAN NICHOLS is a member of the New York Microscopical Society and does work for many Eastern concerns. He stated NICHOLS had a nervous breakdown, came to Fort Collins in December 1951 and hopes to be able to <del>do</del> <i>see</i> <i>SE 21</i></p>			
APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES REVISED BY ROUTING NP(S) OF <i>declass</i> APR 21/78 AP/C/21			
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DN 65-761

work for some of the colleges and universities in Colorado. NICHOLS has a shop in the basement of his garage. He told T-1 his grandfather was a customs collector at New York at about the time of the Civil War.

NICHOLS furnished T-1 with a pamphlet he has published entitled, "Microscopic Ruling", which is being transmitted to Newark Office.

ENCLOSURE TO NEWARK: Pamphlet entitled, "Microscopic Ruling"  
by LYMAN NICHOLS

- RUC -

DN 65-761

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant mentioned in the report  
of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON, dated 9/19/52, at Denver, Colorado,  
entitled, " \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L.  
BLACK, Informant, ESPIONAGE - R" is:

T-1

[REDACTED]

70-

REFERENCE: Report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON, dated 8/22/52  
at Denver

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>DENVER</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/19/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/2, 15/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM E. ROBINSON</b>
TITLE <b>N. J. THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  
Additional information regarding LYMAN NICHOLS set out.

- RUC -

**DETAILS:** AT FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Confidential Informant DM T-1, of known reliability, stated he has obtained additional information regarding LYMAN NICHOLS.

T-1 advised that LYMAN NICHOLS who previously resided near Fort Collins, was born at Trenton, New Jersey and lived most of his life at Nutley, New Jersey. He stated he has a brother in Jacksonville, Florida. He is a retired Colonel and a son who has been in the Air Force. T-1 stated the son of NICHOLS was working for the Bureau of Reclamation in the Fort Collins area but is now working on a Beetle Control Project on the Western Slope.

T-1 stated that LYMAN NICHOLS lives with his wife and daughter at home and recently joined the International Society for Identification. He stated LYMAN NICHOLS is a member of the New York Microscopical Society and does work for many Eastern concerns. He stated NICHOLS had a nervous breakdown, came to Fort Collins in December 1951 and hopes to be able to do

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>9/24/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/16, 18, 22/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>STUART E. CHALIFOUX MP</b>
TITLE <b>WILLIAM NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Records County Treasurer's Office, Hackensack, N. J., reflect WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS employed 1933 to 1938 as bookkeeper. Fellow employee of WM. WARD NICHOLS advises he believes NICHOLS to be loyal American.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

Mr. ALFRED GAROFANO, County Treasurer's Office, Administration Building, Hackensack, N. J., advised that the office records reflect that WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS was employed as a bookkeeper from 1933 to 1938, at which time he voluntarily resigned. GAROFANO said that the records reflect that NICHOLS' Social Security Number is 119-05-2673 and that while employed at the County Treasurer's Office, he resided at the following addresses:

230 Union Ave., Rutherford, N. J.  
326 Walter Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, N. J.

GAROFANO stated that he had been well acquainted with WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS during the period he was employed at the Treasurer's Office, inasmuch as they were both bookkeepers at that time. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, NICHOLS spoke no foreign languages and he could recall nothing which would have indicated that NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy. He said that while employed by the County Treasurer's Office, NICHOLS was single; however, he later learned that after leaving this employment, NICHOLS had married.

GAROFANO advised that the last information in the personnel file of NICHOLS was a request for employment verification,

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NK 65-4116

which was forwarded to the County Treasurer's Office by the Air Reduction Co., Lincoln Bldg., 42nd St., New York City, in 1944.

He stated that there was no other person presently employed in the County Treasurer's Office who had been acquainted with WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS, and advised that during the entire period of his association with NICHOLS, he could recall nothing which had occurred which would in any way indicate that NICHOLS was not loyal to the government of the United States.

-- P --

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

One copy of this report is being furnished to the Washington Field Office for information purposes, inasmuch as that office is handling investigation of PAUL PETERSEN, who was the Soviet superior of the informant, THOMAS L. BLACK.

Leads

NEWARK OFFICE

At Newark, N. J.

Will await information from New York and Denver Offices re leads set out in report of SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX dated 7/23/52.

Will at that time determine whether further investigation should be conducted re WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS or LYMAN NICHOLS.

REFERENCE: Report of SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX dated 7/23/52  
at Newark

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT MADE AT NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE 9/24/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/16, 18, 22/52	REPORT MADE BY STUART E. CHALIFOUX MP
TITLE NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Records County Treasurer's Office, Hackensack, N. J., reflect WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS employed 1933 to 1938 as bookkeeper. Fellow employee of WM. WARD NICHOLS advises he believes NICHOLS to be loyal American.

- P -

DETAILS: Mr. ALFRED GAROFANO, County Treasurer's Office, Administration Building, Hackensack, N. J., advised that the office records reflect that WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS was employed as a bookkeeper from 1933 to 1938, at which time he voluntarily resigned. GAROFANO said that the records reflect that NICHOLS' Social Security Number is 119-05-2673 and that while employed at the County Treasurer's Office, he resided at the following addresses:

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GAROFANO advised that the last information in the personnel file of NICHOLS was a request for employment verification.

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

FILE NO.

JAR

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/1/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/10, 18/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM R. YATES</b>
TITLE  <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

W. W. NICHOLS employed by RCA, Long Island, NY from 10/15/28 to 3/14/29 when he resigned; served as payroll clerk. Records of B. F. Sturtevant Company maintained in Boston, not New York City, but long time employee of company in NYC could not recall S. A. NICHOLS. No credit or criminal record of WILLIAM W. NICHOLS could be located in NYC.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

At Riverhead, Long Island, New York

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY ROUTING

SLIP(S) OF declass

DATE 2/21/78 09/673

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES M. CURRY.

Mr. JOHN BENEDICT, Office Manager of

RCA since 1927 advised that the office files contained no application of WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS but that an employment card indicated that a WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS was employed as a payroll clerk from October 15, 1928 to March 14, 1929 when he left for reasons not indicated. No information of a personal nature concerning NICHOLS appeared in the RCA records. Mr. BENEDICT stated that he remembered NICHOLS very slightly in that he was

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NY 65-15474

employed in an engineering capacity but served in a clerical capacity only. Mr. BENEDICT said the man who had recommended NICHOLS was dead.

At New York, New York

No record of WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS could be located in the files of the New York City Police Department or Credit Bureau.

The Newark Office requested New York to contact the B. F. Sturtevant Company to obtain background information on one S. A. NICHOLS, who was employed by this company in an engineering capacity in 1943 and who might possibly be identical with the subject of this case.

Mr. JOHN F. MUNDER, B. F. Sturtevant Company, 420 Lexington Avenue, advised he has known the engineering employees of this company the past fifteen years and he does not recall an S. A. NICHOLS. Mr. MUNDER stated that the employment records of Sturtevant could be reviewed in the Hyde Park Division of the company in Boston, Massachusetts.

- RUC -

NY 65-15474

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEAD

BOSTON

At Boston, Massachusetts

Will review employment records of B. F. Sturtevant Company, Hyde Park Division for an employment record of one S. A. NICHOLS. If such a record is located will obtain all background information.

REFERENCE

Report of SA STUART A. CHALIFOUX, Newark, 7/23/52.  
Newark letter to Bureau, 8/26/52.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

FILE NO.

JAR

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10/1/52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9/10, 18/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>WILLIAM R. YATES</b>
<b>TITLE</b>  <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		<b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b>  <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

W. W. NICHOLS employed by RCA, Long Island, NY from 10/15/28 to 3/14/29 when he resigned; served as payroll clerk. Records of B. F. Sturtevant Company maintained in Boston, not New York City, but long time employee of company in NYC could not recall S. A. NICHOLS. No credit or criminal record of WILLIAM W. NICHOLS could be located in NYC.

- RUC -

## DETAILS:

At Riverhead, Long Island, New York

The following investigation was conducted by SA CHARLES M. CURRY.

Mr. JOHN BENEDICT, Office Manager of RCA since 1927 advised that the office files contained no application of WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS but that an employment card indicated that a WILLIAM WARD NICHOLS was employed as a payroll clerk from October 15, 1928 to March 14, 1929 when he left for reasons not indicated. No information of a personal nature concerning NICHOLS appeared in the RCA records. Mr. BENEDICT stated that he remembered NICHOLS very slightly in that he was

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ON 2/18/78 BY TP/CJG

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 11/14/52

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: LYMAN NICHOLS,  
East Rutherford, N. J.  
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant  
ESPIONAGE - R

Reference is made to report of SA STUART E. CHALIFOUX dated 7/23/52 at Newark, report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON dated 8/22/52 at Denver, and report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON dated 8/19/52 at Denver.

Bureau permission is requested to have the Denver Office interview LYMAN NICHOLS in order that he may be definitely eliminated as a suspect in this case and also to ascertain if he may be able to furnish any information which might help to identify the subject of this case.

In this regard it is noted that LYMAN NICHOLS lived most of his life in Nutley, N. J., a community which is located a short distance from East Rutherford, N. J., the town in which the unknown subject allegedly resides. It is further noted that LYMAN NICHOLS has a hobby of microscopy and through this hobby may well have been acquainted with many persons in the North Jersey area having the same interest.

Should Bureau permission be granted for the Denver Office to conduct this interview, it is suggested that they may desire to use as a basis for the interview the fact that LYMAN NICHOLS name was furnished to the Bureau by the New York Microscopical Society as a person residing in the North Jersey area who has been a member of this society for many years and who may be acquainted with other persons in the area having a like hobby.

In the event that LYMAN NICHOLS appears to be cooperative, the Denver Office should attempt to ascertain if LYMAN NICHOLS ever attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, if he has any knowledge of the Russian language, and whether he has ever done any work on Government contracts. In this regard it is noted that LYMAN NICHOLS allegedly did work for the Government during the last war in a workshop located in the basement of his home in Nutley, N. J.

SEC:bmm

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cc: Denver (65-761)

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12/1/52  
FBI - Newark

E.R.E. 62 L.I.G.



REC'D 17

540, Newark (65-4116)

December 1, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59995)-50

UNKNOWN SUBJECT;

Mr., Nichols, East  
Rutherford, New Jersey,

Thomas L. Black - Informant

ESPIONAGE - R

EX-130

Reference Newark letter 11-14-52 requesting that permission be granted to the Denver Division to interview Lyman Nichols, a suspect who has been developed as a possible candidate for the unknown subject of instant case.

A review of Bureau files concerning Lyman Nichols reveals the following information:

On November 29, 1937, the New York Division advised the Bureau that on November 26, 1937, Lyman Nichols, 111 Freeland Avenue, Nutley, New Jersey, visited the New York Division and tried to interest the Bureau in a system of "reduced writing," which he had developed. Nichols brought several exhibits to the New York Office, one of which was a piece of glass in which there appeared to be a pinprick. Nichols stated that this dot measured six-tenths of a millimeter. This dot, which could be read only with a powerful glass, contained The Lord's Prayer. From this date on through 1949, the FBI Laboratory has been intermittently in contact with Nichols in connection with his system of reduced writing as well as other processes developed by him. Bufiles do not reflect that the FBI Laboratory actually purchased any of his material.

In 1941, Nichols advised Bureau agents that he had offered to sell his reduced writing instrument to the U. S. Army and to the U. S. Navy but that neither of these organizations desired to purchase same and that subsequently thereto he offered it for sale to Autorg Corporation. Nichols further advised that he was doing very delicate work for the Government on secret bombsights in his home in 1941.

From the above, it would appear logical that Lyman Nichols could be identical with the unsub of instant case in that Autorg representatives could have had representatives of the Soviet intelligence system call on Lyman

cc - 2 Denver (65-781) (Attachment)

68 DEC 30 1952 Philadelphia (65-4374) (Attachment)

ELmo

Nichols to follow-up on his offer. There is no indication in Bureau files that Lyman Nichols has been previously questioned concerning his offer to sell his reduced writing process to Amtorg Trading Corporation.

In 1948, Nichols' system of reduced writing was of interest to the FBI Laboratory in view of the fact that one specimen of writing produced by Nichols containing approximately 100 words was so small that it filled only one-fourth of the field at a magnification of 200 diameters. This size writing is much smaller than the type used in "photographic dots." Nichols developed a simple lens approximately the size of a match head from an ordinary bromo seltzer bottle which was adequate for reading the microscopic messages produced by him.

The Philadelphia Division is instructed to discuss with informant Thomas L. Black in general terms the information furnished above. No specific details of Lyman Nichols' scientific developments should be furnished Black inasmuch as they were furnished to the Bureau in confidence. For the information of the Philadelphia Office concerning Lyman Nichols, there are forwarded herewith the following investigative reports in this matter:

Report of SA Stuart E. Chalifoux,  
dated July 23, 1952, at Newark,  
New Jersey.

Reports of SA William E. Robinson,  
dated August 22, 1952, and September 19,  
1952, at Denver, Colorado.

It is to be noted that Black has previously stated that unknown subject Paul Petersen originally gave him the assignment of contacting unknown subject Nichols in 1935. It should be further noted that Black has stated that Paul Petersen mentioned to Black that the Soviets were having trouble getting information out of Germany because of the vigilance of German intelligence. Petersen asked Black as a chemist interested in photography to consider this problem and see if he could devise some means of sending information through regular channels so that it could not be detected.

There is no subversive derogatory information in Bureau files concerning Lyman Nichols.

After Philadelphia has furnished the Bureau and Denver the results of the interview with Thomas L. Black, Denver is then authorized to interview Lyman Nichols to determine if any representatives of Antorg Trading Corporation, New York City, or perhaps representatives of the Soviet intelligence system contacted him in 1935 or any other time concerning his system of reduced writing.

It is further noted that John Henry de Graaf, a suspect for unknown subject Paul Petersen, is arriving in Philadelphia from Montreal, Canada, Thursday, December 4, 1952, to confront Harry Gold and Thomas L. Black. There are enclosed herewith for the Denver Division copies of the photograph of John Henry de Graaf, which should be exhibited to Lyman Nichols.

Philadelphia should interview Black immediately and advise Denver by teletype so Lyman Nichols may be interviewed before John Henry de Graaf returns to Canada, which will probably be Friday, December 5, 1952.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NEWARK

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT	BOSTON	DATE WHEN MADE	NOV 1 1952	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	10-20-52	REPORT MADE BY	KARL C. FRANK
TITLE	S. A. NICHOLS,			CHARACTER OF CASE			R
East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant							

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** No record of S.A. NICHOLS located at Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, Hyde Park, Massachusetts. One JAMES A. NICHOLS employed at Newark beginning sometime between 1935 and 1939 until February 8, 1945. This record located in Pittsburgh.

RUC

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ON 2/18/78 PF/LG

**DETAILS:** AT HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. MIRA GILBOY, Personnel Clerk, Employment Office, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, advised that her files contained no record of an S.A. NICHOLS. She stated that she had a record of a ~~HOLLYD H.~~ NICHOLS, an air handling engineer, who had been employed from April, 1912 to December, 1951. She stated that according to this record this NICHOLS was employed only at the Hyde Park Plant and was never at Newark, New Jersey. She further stated that although she did not have the file there had been a JAMES A. NICHOLS, a sales engineer, employed at the Newark Office, but his file would now be in the Westinghouse archives, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Miss GILBOY explained that the old B.F. Sturtevant Company is now known as the Sturtevant Division of Westinghouse Corporation.

JOHN C. THOMPSON, General Sales Manager, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, advised that ~~HOLLYD H.~~

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DATE 2/21/78 ADP/H

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NICHOLS was permanently employed in Hyde Park and never worked in the Newark Office. He stated that he had known JAMES A. NICHOLS personally for 15 years and finally fired him February 28, 1945 due to NICHOLS'

7C

THOMPSON continued that JAMES A. NICHOLS had been employed by the American Blower Company in Detroit, Michigan at least 20 years ago and was accepted for employment by the B. F. Sturtevant Company in the Minneapolis Office. About 1935 to 1939 NICHOLS was transferred to Newark. According to THOMPSON, NICHOLS was never happy at Newark, inasmuch as his home was apparently in Minneapolis and he desired to return.

THOMPSON described NICHOLS as a "good church man, a good American and a person who I would not suspect of any kind of activities detrimental to the United States."

According to THOMPSON, NICHOLS lived in a suburb just outside of Newark, and was undoubtedly a graduate engineer but definitely not from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A close associate of NICHOLS in the Newark Office was described as being one S. N. ~~THOMPSON~~, whom THOMPSON said is now a salesman for a sheet metal contractor in Newark, probably the Elizabeth and ----- Sheet Metal Works.

THOMPSON said that as of about three months ago, JAMES A. ~~NICHOLS~~ was a "high salaried" official with the Day Company at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RUC

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS:

A review of the Boston files in this case indicated Pittsburgh Office has received leads in this case. For the information of the Pittsburgh Office, the Newark Office requested New York to contact the B.F. Sturtevant Company at New York to obtain background information on S.A. NICHOLS who was supposedly employed at this company in 1943 and who might possibly be identical with the Subject of this case.

The name of JAMES A. NICHOLS was developed during the investigation by the Boston Office at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, as additional suspect, inasmuch as there was no record of an S.A. NICHOLS.

LEADS:

PITTSBURGH OFFICE

At Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Will review records of the B.F. Sturtevant Company, now the Sturtevant Division of Westinghouse Corporation, at Westinghouse Archives, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for employment records of S.A. NICHOLS and JAMES A. NICHOLS, and if these records are located, obtain all background information.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA WILLIAM R. YATES, dated October 1, 1952 at New York City.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>BOSTON</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>NOV 18 1951</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>10-20-52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>KARL C. FRANK</b>
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No record of S.A. NICHOLS located at Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, Hyde Park, Massachusetts. One JAMES A. NICHOLS employed at Newark beginning sometime between 1935 and 1939 until February 8, 1945. This record located in Pittsburgh.

RUC

DETAILS: AT HYDE PARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Mrs. NORA GILBOY, Personnel Clerk, Employment Office, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, advised that her files contained no record of an S.A. NICHOLS. She stated that she had a record of a HOWARD E. NICHOLS, an air handling engineer, who had been employed from April, 1912 to December, 1951. She stated that according to this record this NICHOLS was employed only at the Hyde Park Plant and was never at Newark, New Jersey. She further stated that although she did not have the file there had been a JAMES A. NICHOLS, a sales engineer, employed at the Newark Office, but his file would now be in the Westinghouse archives, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Miss GILBOY explained that the old B.F. Sturtevant Company is now known as the Sturtevant Division of Westinghouse Corporation.

**JOHN C. THOMPSON**, General Sales Manager, Sturtevant

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: **Division, Westinghouse Corporation, Gardner Atwater McCollard**

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AIR-TEL

DECEMBER 1, 1952

URGENT

SAC, PHILADELPHIA

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, A., NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY;  
THOMAS L. BLACK - INFORMANT, ESPIONAGE - B. REBULET TO  
NEWARK 18-1-52 WITH CC'S TO PHILADELPHIA AND DENVER. IN-  
STRUCTIONS IN THIS LET SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY.

HOOVER

CS-59395

CC - 2 - DENVER (85-781)

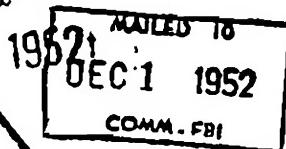
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DENVER

Lieffer

FBI PHILA  
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12-2-52

UNSUB; WA., NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY, THOMAS L. BLACK-INFORMANT.

ESP-R. DENVER FILE SIXTYFIVE DASH SEVEN SIX ONE. REBULET AND EUTEL DEC. ONE.  
THOMAS L. BLACK, ADMITTED SOVIET AGENT, REINTERVIEWED RE SUBJECT MATTER THIS DATE. EARLY IN BLACK'S ASSOCIATION WITH SOVIET SUPERIOR, PAUL PETERSEN, POSSIBLY END NINETEEN THIRTYFOUR OR BEGINNING NINETEEN THIRTYFIVE, PETERSEN INSTRUCTED BLACK TO LOCATE MAN NAMED NICHOLS WHO LIVED IN VICINITY OF EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY. BLACK HAS IMPRESSION PROBABLY GAINED FROM PETERSEN THAT NICHOLS WAS METALLURGIST, GRADUATE OF MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND MAN INTERESTED IN MICROSCOPY. BLACK WAS ALSO LED TO BELIEVE PROBABLY BY PETERSEN THAT AMTORC HAD DEALINGS WITH NICHOLS IN HIS STUDENT DAYS. BLACK THOUGHT NICHOLS MIGHT HAVE TUTORED RUSSIAN STUDENTS WHILE AT MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. BLACK NOW BELIEVES NICHOLS HAD NOT FURNISHED ANYTHING OF VALUE TO RUSSIANS BUT MIGHT SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN SOURCE TO RUSSIANS. BLACK NOT DEFINITELY CERTAIN OF HIS FACTS BECAUSE OF PASSAGE OF TIME AND CLAIMS HIS THOUGHTS ON MATTER ARE NOW VAGUE IMPRESSIONS. IN ATTEMPT TO FULFILL HIS ASSIGNMENT, BLACK WENT TO RUTHERFORD NEW JERSEY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CHECKED CITY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES. AT NEXT MEETING WITH PETERSEN, BLACK REPORTED HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE NICHOLS. PETERSEN TOLD BLACK HE WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE ASSIGNMENT. BLACK HEARD NO MORE ABOUT IT AND NEVER MADE CONTACT WITH NICHOLS.

AFTER FURTHER RECOLLECTION BLACK THOUGHT HOBBY OR SPECIALTY OF NICHOLS WAS PHOTOMICROGRAPHY, DEFINED BY BLACK, AS PHOTOGRAPHY UNDER MICROSCOPIC CONDITIONS.

END PAGE ONE

COPIES DESTROYED

63 DEC 18 1952 A 12

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NOT RECORDED

18 DEC 3 1952

cc Bureau (registered mail)  
cc Newark (registered mail)

18 DEC 12 1952

5-82

PAGE TWO

BLACK THOUGHT PETERSEN MENTIONED THIS SPECIFICALLY SINCE BLACK WAS TO USE THIS COMMON INTEREST AS MEANS OF BECOMING ACQUAINTED WITH NICHOLS. INFORMATION MENTIONED IN RE BULET DISCUSSED WITH BLACK IN GENERAL TERMS. BLACK CLASSIFIED "PHOTOGRAPHIC DOTS" MENTIONED PARAGRAPH THREE, PAGE ONE AND PARAGRAPH TWO PAGE TWO OF RE BULET AS PHOTOMICROGRAPHY. BLACK DIFFERENTIATED THIS FROM MICROPHOTOGRAPHY, DEFINED AS PHOTOGRAPHING ANYTHING ON SMALL NEGATIVE. BLACK DEFINITE MAIN INTEREST OF NICHOLS AS MENTIONED BY PETERSEN WAS PHOTOMICROGRAPHY. SUGGEST DENVER INTERVIEW LYMAN NICHOLS IMMEDIATELY AND SUTEL RESULTS TO PHILA PRIOR TO MORNING DEC. FIVE NINETEEN FIFTYTWO.

ARRATIICCHIO

END

65-4374  
CAS/pjb

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT DENVER	DATE WHEN MADE 12/8/52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/4/52	REPORT MADE BY WB WILLIAM E. ROBINSON
TITLE NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

LYMAN NICHOLS, Fort Collins, Colorado, states he was contacted in NYC in about 1937 or 1938 by a representative of the Diebold Safe & Lock Company of NYC. This individual, whose name NICHOLS cannot recall, suggested NICHOLS and the Diebold Company sell NICHOLS' process to the Soviet Government through Amtorg. NICHOLS then exhibited microscope in process to representatives of Amtorg in their office in NYC and states Amtorg referred matter to the Russian Ambassador, Washington, D.C. The Diebold representative later advised NICHOLS the Russians were not interested because the process was not developed by there own intelligence agency. NICHOLS cannot recall the names of any person contacting him as above described and states he had no further contact with these persons. NICHOLS cannot identify photographs of JOHN HENRY DE CRAAF.

*X*

**APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES**

ADVISED BY ROUTING

SLIP(S) OF *declass*

DATE *3/24/78 AP/CB/3*

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913

- RUC - 08 2/18/78 RP/CB

**DETAILS:**

AT FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

**COPY IN FILE**

Mr. LYMAN NICHOLS, who resides at Linder-  
man Lake, north of town, was interviewed by  
SAs KENNETH J. BRIDENSTINE and the writer.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:  <i>QCB</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT COPIES DESTROYED		65-59395-53	
5 - BUREAU (65-59395-53) (REG.) 3 - NEWARK (65-4119) (REG.) 2 - NEW YORK (65-15474) (REG.) 1 - PHILADELPHIA (INFO) (REG.) 2 - DENVER (65-761)		RECORDED - 59  <i>DEC 12 1952</i> <i>QCB</i>	INDEXED - 59  <i>EX - 107</i>

58 JAN 5 1963  
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AGENCY TO WHICH COPIED.

*QCB*

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1953 2-219410 1-1 J-16-20250-16-88-88

NICHOLS advised that he was born February 1, 1895, at Trenton, New Jersey, and that he was educated at Newark Academy in Newark, New Jersey. He stated he has lived at Nutley, New Jersey practically all of his life, and that he has never attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and is not a metallurgist. He stated he has never tutored any Russian students. He stated that his work has been primarily in microscopic etchings and that he carried on this work prior to a year ago at Nutley, New Jersey. He stated he has been interested in all branches of microscopic work, has done a lot of research and is a member of the New York Microscopical Society.

NICHOLS advised that in about 1935 or 1936, he went to both the Army and the Navy and tried to sell his reduced writing instrument but that he was turned down by both. He stated that he cannot recall the date or the exact year but some time between 1937 and 1939, he was contacted by an official, or at least a representative, of the Diebold Safe and Lock Company of New York City. He stated this individual, whose name he cannot recall, asked him if he would be interested in selling his process to the Russian Government and giving one half to the Diebold Company for handling the matter, providing the half was not less than \$50,000.

NICHOLS stated he agreed to this and with this representative with the Diebold Company, he went to the office of Amtorg Corporation on 5th Avenue in New York City, and exhibited his microscope and his process. He cannot recall the names of any one contacted there, but states he was advised that the Amtorg Corporation would have to submit the matter to the Russian Ambassador in Washington, D.C.

NICHOLS stated he was subsequently advised by the representative of the Diebold Safe Company that the Russian Ambassador had turned down the proposition because it was against the policy of the Russian Government to accept any such proposition which did not originate within their own intelligence agency. NICHOLS stated that he later receive inquiries about the process, by mail, from the representatives of the German and Italian Governments but that he never had any direct dealings with them and did not sell them the process. NICHOLS pointed out that he formerly had large file regarding his trying to sell his process but that he destroyed this file when he left Nutley, New Jersey, about a year ago, thinking he would never need it again.

NICHOLS stated that as far as he knows, there is no one else in the New York Microscopical Society, names NICHOLS and he knows

of no other person named NICHOLS who is interested in micro-photography or related arts.

NICHOLS was able to locate an old address book in which he found the name G. B. NICHOLS, 318 Montross Avenue, Rutherford, New Jersey. He could not recall the reason that this name was in the book. He also found the name "Mr. DANSKER", listed as a representative of the Amtorg Corporation, 261 5th Avenue, New York City.

NICHOLS examined the photographs of JOHN HENRY DE GRAAF and could not identify him as a contact. He stated he has never been contacted by a man named PAUL PETERSON regarding his process.

According to NICHOLS, the representative of the Diebold Safe Company told him that the Diebold company were armament consultants to the Soviet Government. He recalled that this representative contacted him at 118 Liberty Street in New York City, where he was being afforded desk space by one R. P. CARGILLE who still has an office at that address. He stated that CARGILLE might possibly recall the name of the Diebold representative since he was present during the discussions and might possibly remember other incidents regarding contacts there.

According to NICHOLS, the only other person who did the same type of work he was doing was ALFRED MC EWAN of Garrison, New York, who is now deceased.

NICHOLS recalled that the New York papers carried stories in about 1939, reporting the Diebold Safe and Lock Company as running guns to China. He stated that he especially recalls this because it arose his suspicions as to the foreign connections of this company. NICHOLS stated that the only person who subsequently contacted him regarding his process was the representative of the F.B.I. He stated he made a trip to Washington, D.C. to exhibit his process to the F.B.I.

- RUC -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

One copy of this report is being furnished the Philadelphia Office so that office may have complete information which was summarized for their benefit in teletype dated December 4, 1952.

LEADSTHE NEWARK OFFICEAT RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

Will attempt to identify G. B. NICHOLS, who resided at 318 Montross Avenue, about 1939, to determine whether he might be subject in this case.

THE NEW YORK OFFICEAT NEW YORK CITY

Will contact Mr. R. P. CARGILLE, 118 Liberty Street, where LYMAN NICHOLS shared office space in 1938. Will question CARGILLE as to the identity of any persons who contacted NICHOLS regarding his process. Determine whether Mr. CARGILLE knows the name of the representative of Diebold Safe and Lock Company, who dealt with LYMAN NICHOLS.

REFERENCE

Bulet to Newark, dated December 1, 1952.

Toletype to Bureau, Philadelphia, and Newark, dated December 4, 1952.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEWARK**

REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY
<b>DENVER</b>	<b>12/8/52</b>	<b>12/4/52</b>	<b>WB</b> <b>WILLIAM E. ROBINSON</b>
TITLE		CHARACTER OF CASE	
<b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		<b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

LYMAN NICHOLS, Fort Collins, Colorado, states he was contacted in NYC in about 1937 or 1938 by a representative of the Diebold Safe & Lock Company of NYC. This individual, whose name NICHOLS cannot recall, suggested NICHOLS and the Diebold Company sell NICHOLS' process to the Soviet Government through Amtorg. NICHOLS then exhibited microscope in process to representatives of Amtorg in their office in NYC and states Amtorg referred matter to the Russian Ambassador, Washington, D.C. The Diebold representative later advised NICHOLS the Russians were not interested because the process was not developed by their own intelligence agency. NICHOLS cannot recall the names of any person contacting him as above described and states he had no further contact with these persons. NICHOLS cannot identify photographs of JOHN HENRY DE GRAAF.

- RUC -

**DETAILS:**

AT FORT COLLINS, COLORADO

Mr. LYMAN NICHOLS, who resides at Linderman Lake, north of town, was interviewed by SAs KENNETH J. BRIDENSTINE and the writer.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT			
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>(5)</span> <span>BUREAU (65-59395) (REQ.)</span> <span>DECLASSIFIED BY 4913</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>3 - NEWARK (65-4119) (REQ.)</span> <span>ON 2/18/78 AP/cjg</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2 - NEW YORK (65-15474) (REQ.)</span> <span></span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>1 - PHILADELPHIA (INFO) (REQ.)</span> <span></span> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;"> <span>2 - DENVER (65-761)</span> <span></span> </div>			

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SEARCH SLIP

Supervisor / Room 1738

Subj: D, PBN/6 565-112 Pa

Exact Spelling      Searchers  
All References      Initial W  
Subversive Ref.      Date 12/11  
Mail File  
Restricted to Locality of  
*N.Y.*

## FILE NUMBER

## SERIALS

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Initialed

65-59395  
N/N after 53

DEC 4 - 1952

TELETYPE

FBI, DENVER

12-4-52

3-57 PM MST

BAS

DIRECTOR, FBI, AND SAC, PHILADELPHIA AND NEWARK URGENT

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, WA. NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY

THOMAS L. BLACK, INFORMANT, ESP. DASH R. LYMAN NICHOLS, FORT COLLINS,

COLORADO, STATES WAS CONTACTED IN NYC IN ABOUT THIRTY SEVEN OR THIRTY

EIGHT, BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF DIEBOLD SAFE AND LOCK COMPANY OF NYC,

WHO SUGGESTED NICHOLS AND DIEBOLD SAFE COMPANY SELL NICHOLS- PROCESS

TO SOVIET THROUGH AMTORG CORPORATION. NICHOLS THEN EXHIBITED MICRO-

SCOPE AND PROCESS TO REPRESENTATIVES OF AMTORG AT THEIR OFFICE IN NYC,

AND AMTORG REFERRED MATTER TO RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR, WASHINGTON, D.C.

DIEBOLD REPRESENTATIVE LATER ADVISED NICHOLS THE RUSSIANS NOT INTERESTED  
BECAUSE PROCESS NOT DEVELOPED BY THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. B

NICHOLS CANNOT RECALL NAMES OF ANY PERSONS CONTACTED, AS ABOVE DES-

CRIBED, AND STATES HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH THESE PERSONS. ALSO

STATES NOT CONTACTED BY ANY OTHER PERSONS OTHER THAN FBI PERSONNEL

REGARDING HIS PROCESS. NICHOLS CANNOT IDENTIFY PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOHN

HENRY DE GRAAF AS ANYONE HE KNOWS.

COPIES DESTROYED

END 2 NOV 23 1960

REC'D 12/15/52  
cc-07, K  
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12/15/52  
EX-101

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V6-00 PM OK FBI WA RD

OK FBI NK CD

*cc-Branigan*

BURTON

105-59395-54

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*Leibberg*

5-60

SAC, Newark (65-4118)

December 15, 1952

Director, FBI (65-59395)

65-59395-54

RECORDED-8  
Ex. 10  
UNKNOWN SUBJECT,  
wa., Nichols,  
East Rutherford, New Jersey;  
THOMAS L. BLACK - INFORMANT  
ESPIONAGE - R

Re Denver tel December 4, 1952, reflecting that Lyman Nichols, Fort Collins, Colorado, stated that he was contacted in New York City about 1937 or 1938 by a representative of the Diebold Safe and Lock Company of NYC who suggested that Nichols and Diebold sell Nichols' process to the Soviets through Amtorg Corporation.

Bufiles reveal no subversive derogatory information concerning the Diebold Safe and Lock Company of New York City.

cc - 2 - Denver (65-781)  
2 - Philadelphia (65-1374)

EL:rmc/mmc

To whom \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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~~DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE~~ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>PITTSBURGH</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/21/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/8, 9, 12/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN M. PAGE</b>
TITLE  <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ESPIONAGE - K</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Westinghouse Archives, Pittsburgh, Pa., have no information reflecting employment of S. A. NICHOLS, or JAMES A. NICHOLS with the B. F. Sturtevant Company, now known as Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation. Records reflect employment of one G. SETH NICHOLS during period 12/12/41 - 3/20/42 at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, Plant of B. F. Sturtevant. Photograph obtained.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 BY SP/sg

**DETAILS:**

On January 8, 1953, H. W. RAINY, Jr., Sales Manager, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, 1206 Union Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised that the old employment records of the B. F. Sturtevant

Company are presently in the custody of R. C. GRIMES, Custodian of Archives, Westinghouse Corporation, 1316 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

RAINEY advised that he had formerly been associated with the B. F. Sturtevant Company before the merger with the Westinghouse

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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COMPLETED NOV 23 1964

**65-59395-55**

RECORDED - 45  
INDEXED - 46

- (5) - Bureau (65-59395) (RM)  
3 - Newark (65-4116) (RM) (Encl.)  
2 - Pittsburgh (65-1453)

67 FEB 2 1953 mdc

JAN 23 1953

17

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF ~~declassified~~

DATE 2/18/78 BY SP/sg

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

Corporation. RAINNEY recalled one JAMES NICHOLS, who had worked for the B. F. Sturtevant Company in the Newark, New Jersey, area, under ALEXANDER MARTIN. RAINNEY advised that MARTIN is presently Eastern District manager, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, 420 Lexington Avenue, New York City, and that MARTIN's office is located in the Graybar Building. RAINNEY stated that he was not personally acquainted with NICHOLS and could furnish no additional information.

On January 9, 1953, M. C. GRIMES, Custodian of Archives, Westinghouse Corporation, 1316 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised that a review of the Archives records failed to reflect any information indicating employment of either S. A. NICHOLS or JAMES A. NICHOLS with the B. F. Sturtevant Company, now known as the Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation.

GRIMES advised that the old Sturtevant records, which are very sketchy in detail, do reflect the employment of one G. SETH NICHOLS at the Hyde Park, Massachusetts Plant of B. F. Sturtevant. According to this record, G. SETH NICHOLS was employed as a clerk in the drawing room of the B. F. Sturtevant Company at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, from December 12, 1941, to March 20, 1942, at which time NICHOLS left the employ of the company on his own accord. This record reflects that G. SETH NICHOLS was born June 13, 1905, at New York, New York; that he attended the Milton Academy and Harvard University; and that at the time of his employment he resided at Glezen Lane, Wayland, Massachusetts. This record listed the Social Security Number of G. SETH NICHOLS as 030-14-3992, and described him as white, male, 5' 6", 130 pounds, married.

A photograph of G. SETH NICHOLS is included in this record.

ENCLOSURES TO NEWARK:

Two copies of photograph of G. SETH NICHOLS

- R U C -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

No lead is being set forth by the Pittsburgh Office requesting New York to locate and interview ALEXANDER MARTIN. This matter is being left to the discretion of the office of origin, since the Pittsburgh Office is not in receipt of the full details of this investigation.

REFERENCE: Report of SA KARL C. FRANK, Boston, 11/18/52.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>PITTSBURGH</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>1/21/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/8,9,12/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOHN H. PAGE</b>
TITLE  <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>		

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Westinghouse Archives, Pittsburgh, Pa., have no information reflecting employment of S. A. NICHOLS, or JAMES A. NICHOLS with the B. F. Sturtevant Company, now known as Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation. Records reflect employment of one G. SETH NICHOLS during period 12/12/41 - 3/20/42 at Hyde Park, Massachusetts, Plant of B. F. Sturtevant. Photograph obtained.

- REC -

## DETAILS:

On January 8, 1953, H. W. RAINEY, Jr., Sales Manager, Sturtevant Division, Westinghouse Corporation, 1236 Union Bank Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., advised that the old employment records of the B. F. Sturtevant Company are presently in the custody of R. C. GRIMES, Custodian of Archives, Westinghouse Corporation, 1316 Forbes Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

RAINEY advised that he had formerly been associated with the B. F. Sturtevant Company before the merger with the Westinghouse

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
COPIES OF THIS REPORT				
(5) - Bureau (65-59395) (RM) 3 - Newark (65-4116) (RM) (Encl.) 2 - Pittsburgh (65-1453)	DECLASSIFIED BY 4913 ON 2/19/78 AP/rgj			
mde				

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~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-5935)

DATE: 1/20/53

FROM : SAC NEWARK (65-1116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT

wa ~~O~~ Nichols  
East Rutherford, N.J.  
THOMAS L ~~O~~ BLACK - INFORMANT  
ESPIONAGE - R

-----  
Re report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON dated 12/8/52 at Denver, Colorado. It is noted that referenced report indicates that Mr. LYMAN ~~NICHOLS~~, presently residing at Linderman Lake, Ft. Collins, Colorado advised that his address book reflected the address of one G. B. ~~NICHOLS~~ who resided at 318 Montross Ave., Rutherford, N.J. in approximately 1939. In an effort to identify G. B. ~~NICHOLS~~, the records of the Rutherford, N.J. Police Department, Bergen and Passaic County Credit Bureau, and the Borough of Rutherford Tax Assessors Office were checked with negative results. In addition, City Directories and Telephone Directories covering the pertinent period were examined; however, no listing for a G.B. ~~NICHOLS~~ could be found.

A review of the file in this case reflects that report of SA BLAKE E. TURNER dated 11/16/51 at Newark, N.J. sets forth information concerning one J.B. ~~NICHOLS~~ who resided at 318 Montross Ave., Rutherford, N.J. in 1935 or 1936. It is noted that the information set forth identified J.B. ~~NICHOLS~~ as a woman school teacher who had resided at that address with her 10 year old son. Investigation further reflected that Mrs. J.B. ~~NICHOLS~~ was apparently divorced or separated from her husband inasmuch as neighbors advised that he had never resided at that address. In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted to identify G.B. ~~NICHOLS~~.

A complete review of the file in this case reflects that all persons by the name of ~~NICHOLS~~ who resided in Rutherford or East Rutherford, N.J. during the pertinent period have been identified and eliminated as suspects in this case. The only outstanding leads are for the Pittsburgh Office at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to review the records of the B.F. Sturtevant, now the Sturtevant Division

cc: 1. New York (65-15474) REC'D (7) . 63  
1. Pittsburgh (65-1453)

SEC: JMS

COPIES DESTROYED 1/21/53

INDEXED - 63

REGISTERED MAIL JAN 23 1953

R 65-21 JAN 23 1953

65-59395-5b

20

LETTER TO DIRECTOR

of the Westinghouse Corp., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for background information on S.A. NICHOLS and JAMES A. NICHOLS.

It is noted that his lead was set forth in report of SA CARL C. FRANK at Boston, Massachusetts.

In addition, report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBERTS dated 12/8/52 at Denver, Colorado, sets forth a lead for the New York Office to contact Mr. R.P. CARGILLE, 118 Liberty St. and ascertain the identity of any persons who contacted LYMAN NICHOLS regarding his reduced writing process. The New York Office was further requested to determine whether Mr. CARGILLE knows the name of the representative of the Diebold Safe and Lock Company who dealt with LYMAN NICHOLS.

Inasmuch as the Bureau advised by letter dated 12/15/52 that Bureau files contained no subversive derogatory information concerning the Diebold Safe and Lock Company in New York City, the New York Office is requested to contact the above company for any information they may have in their files concerning their contact with LYMAN NICHOLS in 1937 or 1938.

For complete information concerning this contact, the New York Office is referred to the report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBERTS dated 12/8/52 at Denver, Colorado.

The Pittsburgh and New York offices are requested to conduct the above investigation as expeditiously as possible in order that this case may be brought to an early and logical conclusion.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 1/29/53

FROM : SAC, Philadelphia (65-4374)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa. Nichols,  
East Rutherford, N. J.;  
THOMAS L. BLACK - INFORMANT  
ESPIONAGE - R

Rebulet 12/1/52 and Philadelphia teletype 12/2/52.

As set forth in rebul., THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet agent, was reinterviewed by SA CHARLES P. SILVERTHORN on 12/2/52 re subject matter.

He related that early in his association with his Soviet superior, PAUL PETERSEN, possibly the end of 1934 or beginning of 1935, PETERSEN instructed BLACK to locate a man named NICHOLS who lived in the vicinity of East Rutherford, N. J. BLACK emphasized he is not definitely certain of his facts because of the passage of time, and he claims his thoughts on this matter are now "vague impressions."

BLACK has the impression, probably gained from PETERSEN, that NICHOLS was a metallurgist, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and a man interested in microscopy. BLACK was also led to believe, probably by PETERSEN, that Amtorg had dealings with NICHOLS in his student days. BLACK thought NICHOLS might have tutored Russian students while at MIT. BLACK now believes NICHOLS had not furnished anything of value to Russians but might subsequently have been a source to the Russians.

In an attempt to fulfill his assignment, BLACK went to the Rutherford, N. J., Public Library and checked city and telephone directories. At the next meeting with PETERSEN, BLACK reported he had been unable to locate NICHOLS. PETERSEN told BLACK he would take care of the assignment. BLACK heard no more about it and never made contact with NICHOLS.

After further recollection, BLACK thought the hobby or specialty of NICHOLS was photomicrography, defined by BLACK as photography under microscopic conditions. BLACK thought PETERSEN mentioned this specifically since BLACK was to use this common interest as a means of becoming acquainted with NICHOLS. The system of reduced writing in which "photographic dots" were used was classified as photomicrography by BLACK. BLACK differentiated this from microphotography, which BLACK defined as photographing anything on a small negative. BLACK was definite in his belief that the main interest of NICHOLS, as mentioned by PETERSEN, was photomicrography.

CPS: HKF COPIES DESTROYED

cc: 1 - Newark (Info) (65-4116)  
1 - Denver (Info) (65-761)

RECORDED: 44 65-59395-57

FEB 5 1953

60-15-1953

PH 65-4374  
Director, FBI

1/29/53

For the information of Denver and Newark, JOHN HENRY DeGRAAF was interviewed in the spring of 1952 by SA ROBERT S. PLANTZ, of the New York Office, and SA CHARLES P. SILVERTHORN, of the Philadelphia Office, at Montreal, Canada, at which time DeGRAAF admitted being an agent for the Comintern and the Fourth Department, Soviet Military Intelligence, during the 1930's. DeGRAAF, however, denied operating as a Soviet agent in the United States. THOMAS L. BLACK tentatively identified a 1932 photograph of DeGRAAF as being identical with his Soviet superior, PAUL PETERSEN. A confrontation was held at the Philadelphia Office on 12/4/52 between DeGRAAF and BLACK. After the confrontation BLACK stated he had changed his opinion regarding early 1930 photographs of DeGRAAF and now feels these photographs are not of PETERSEN.

While in Philadelphia, JOHN HENRY DeGRAAF was questioned on 12/6/52 re subject matter by SAs ROBERT S. PLANTZ, of the New York Office, and CHARLES P. SILVERTHORN, of the Philadelphia Office. DeGRAAF claimed the name NICHOLS was not familiar to him. He again denied knowing BLACK or ever giving anyone instructions to find NICHOLS in East Rutherford, N.J. He vehemently denied he ever operated as a Soviet agent in the United States.

RUC.

AIR TEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 2/2/53

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Keay  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Gandy  
Mr. Miller  
Miss Gandy  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Johnson  
Mr. Schild  
Miss Gandy

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU  
UNSUB NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY, THOMAS L. BLACK,  
INFORMANT, ESPIONAGE R. R. P. CARGILLE RE-INTERVIEWED. STATED  
A REVIEW OF HIS DIARY REFLECTS TWO POSSIBLE PERTINENT ENTRIES:

"MARCH 14, 1940, J. BAUER CALLED RE: MICRO SHARP"; AND "MARCH 19,  
1940, SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE CALLED RE: MICRO SHARP". CARGILLE  
ADVISED MICRO SHARP WAS A CODE NAME NICHOLS AND HE USED FOR THE  
REDUCED WRITING INSTRUMENT. BELIEVES J. BAUER POSSIBLY INDIVIDUAL  
FROM DIEBOLD SAFE COMPANY. SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE COULD  
ALSO POSSIBLY APPLY TO J. BAUER AS HE RECALLED INDIVIDUAL AT SAFE  
COMPANY ADVISED THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH SECRET SERVICE AND INTELLIGENCE  
WORK AND POSSIBLY HE, CARGILLE, REFERRED TO HIM AS SUCH IN DIARY.

AGAIN STATED THAT NICHOLS' INVENTION HAD NO COMMERCIAL MARKET  
AND WAS DESIGNED FOR INTELLIGENCE WORK. RECALLED ONE, FIRST  
NAME UNKNOWN, MC GUCKIN, 121 WEST SIDE AVENUE, RIDGEWOOD, NEW  
JERSEY, AS FRIEND OF NICHOLS AND FAMILIAR WITH MICRO SHARP. ADDRESS  
TEN YEARS OLD BUT CURRENT ADDRESS

(2) BUREAU

2-NEWARK

2-DENVER

RAN:AM #6

65-15474

RECORDED 101

165-59395-58  
34 FEB 8 1953COPIES DESTROYED  
R 12 NO. 40 100

65-59395-58

Approved:

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M.D. Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

60 FEB 9 1953

5-EL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NY 65-15474

-2-

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

OF MC GUCKIN'S SON IS FLOYD R. MC GUCKIN, THREE ONE  
FOUR NORTH MONROE STREET, RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY.

HARRY ROSS RETURNING NYC FEBRUARY 9, 1953. ROSS  
WILL BE INTERVIEWED PRIOR TO CONTACT WITH DIEBOLD  
SAFE COMPANY.

BOARDMAN

b VB  
JW

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FD-34 (Rev. 1-21-51)  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. [initials] \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. [initials] \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gearty \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sizoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Candy \_\_\_\_\_

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, N.Y.

JAN. 28, 1953

AIRTEL

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

BUREAU ..... 65-59395

① UNSUB WA NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NEW JERSEY, ESP-R. REREP WILLIAM E. B.  
L5-59395-S

ROBINSON, DENVER, DEC. EIGHT, FIFTYTWO. R. P. CARGILLE, ONE ONE SEVEN

LIBERTY ST., NYC, INTERVIEWED JAN. TWO SEVEN LAST. ADVISED HE RECALLED ! R

ACCOMPANYING LYMAN NICHOLS TO A COMMERCIAL SAFE CO., PROBABLY DIEBOLD SAFE

CO., FOR PURPOSE OF SELLING A REDUCED WRITING INSTRUMENT INVENTED BY NICHOLS.

CARGILLE CANNOT RECALL WHY HE ACCOMPANIED NICHOLS BUT STATED HE HAD BEEN TRYING TO GET NICHOLS INVENTION ON THE MARKET. STATED INVENTION CONSISTED OF

A MACHINE WHICH WOULD REDUCE WRITINGS TO A PINPOINT. RECALLED THAT NICHOLS

FELT BEST USAGE WAS IN INTELLIGENCE AND SECRET SERVICE FIELDS. RECALLED INDIVIDUAL AT DIEBOLD CO. OCCUPIED AN OFFICE AND APPEARED TO BE AN OFFICIAL.

THIS INDIVIDUAL STATED HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH SECRET SERVICE AND INTELLIGENCE MATTERS AND A DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT THE NECESSITY IN TIME OF WAR OF

SLIPPING MESSAGES THRU ENEMY LINES. CARGILLE PLACED TIME OF CONFERENCE AS WHEN

EUROPE WAS AT WAR BUT NOT THE U.S. UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL MADE MENTION OF RUSSIAN

GOVT INTEREST AND THAT NICHOLS MIGHT HAVE TO GO TO RUSSIA. CARGILLE POINTED

OUT THAT NICHOLS' ABILITY WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO THE OPERATION OF THE MACHINE.

CANNOT RECALL ANY OTHER NEGOTIATIONS EXCEPT THAT NOTHING CAME OUT OF THE

VISIT. CARGILLE RECALLED MEETING NICHOLS THRU ONE HARRY ROSS, OPTICIAN,

SEVENTY BROADWAY, NYC, A CLOSE FRIEND OF NICHOLS. BELIEVED ROSS POSSIBLY

FAMILIAR WITH NICHOLS NEGOTIATIONS. STATED NICHOLS HAD NO FORMAL BACKGROUND

AND TO HIS KNOWLEDGE NEVER USED M.I.T. AS A BACKGROUND. NO KNOWLEDGE OF

65-15474 RECURRED - 67 59-395-59  
1 - Newark (65-4119) COPIES DESTROYED

1 - Newark (65-761) R 12 NOV 20 1960

62 FEB 1 1953 Sent 20 M Per

RAM:IM Special Agent in Charge

(3) Bureau

5-EL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

PAGE TWO

NICHOLS' INTEREST IN METALLURGY. DESCRIBED NICHOLS AS TOPS IN MICROSCOPIC FIELD. CARGILLE STATED HE USED TO KEEP NOTES AND DIARIES OFF AND ON AND WILL GO OVER HIS PERSONAL PAPERS AND ALSO TRY TO REFRESH HIS RECOLLECTION ABOUT NICHOLS' ATTEMPTS TO SELL HIS INVENTION. CARGILLE TO BE REINTERVIEWED IN TWO OR THREE DAYS. NYO WILL THEN INTERVIEW HARRY ROSS AND ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL AT DIEBOLD SAFE CO.

BOARDMAN

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 2/10/53

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

UNSUB, NICHOLS, EAST RUTHERFORD, N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK,  
INFORMANT. HARRY ROSS, 70 WEST BROADWAY, NYC, INTERVIEWED  
TODAY AND ADVISED HE KNEW LYMAN NICHOLS WAS WORKING ON A  
REDUCED WRITING INSTRUMENT BUT WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY  
PERTINENT INFORMATION. STATED HE HAD VERY LITTLE CONTACT  
WITH NICHOLS AFTER 1940. KNEW OF NO OCCASION WHERE NICHOLS  
REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS M.I.T. GRADUATE OR DISPLAYED INTEREST  
IN METALLURGY. NYO WILL, ACCORDINGLY CONTACT DIEBOLD SAFE  
CORPORATION.

*B long  
Lilley*

BOARDMAN

- 3 - Bureau (Regular)  
1 - Newark (Regular)  
1 - Denver (AM)

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165-59395-60  
FEB 11 1953

RAM:BRM (#6)  
65-15474

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Special Agent in Charge

79 FEB 20 1953

FD-36  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Nease  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Gandy  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Verner  
Tele. Room  
Mr. McLean  
Mr. Schilder  
Mr. Murphy

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

New York, New York / 2/18/53

Air-Tel

Transmit the following Teletype message to: BUREAU

Mr. Nease  
Mr. Dickey  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Harlan  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Edwards  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Winterrowd  
Tele. Room  
Mr. H. Johnson  
Mr. Sisco  
Miss Crowley

UNSUB, NICHOLS EAST RUTHERFORD, N. J., THOMAS L. BLACK, INFORMANT,  
ESPIONAGE DASH R. MR. E. P. GALLAGHER, DIEBOLD SAFE CO., TWO  
WEST FORTYFIFTH STREET, NYC, ADVISED NO RECORDS MAINTAINED AT  
NYC OFFICE. ALL RECORDS AT MAIN OFFICE, CANTON, OHIO. GALLAGHER  
UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY PERTINENT INFO. GALLAGHER STATED A RECORD  
OF ALL CONTACTS MADE BY DIEBOLD CO. REPRESENTATIVES ARE MAINTAINED  
BUT WAS UNABLE TO ADVISE LENGTH OF TIME RECORDS ARE KEPT. STATED  
DIEBOLD CO. ALSO IN MICRO FILM FIELD AND WOULD POSSIBLY BE  
INTERESTED IN A REDUCED WRITING INSTRUMENT. NYO WILL SUREP  
AND SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEAD FOR CLEVELAND OFFICE.

BOARDMAN

(3) Bureau (65-59395)  
2-Denver (AIR MAIL)  
2-Newark

RAM:RS (#6)  
65-15474

396  
68 MAR 5 1953

RECORDED 113

65-59395-61  
FEB 18 1953

Approved: B Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

5-EE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SECURITY INFORMATION  
MAILED AT NEWARK

HC

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/26/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/27; 2/2, 10, 17, 18/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RICHARD A. MINIHAN</b>
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

R. P. CARGILLE, 117 Liberty St., NYC, advised that LYMAN NICHOLS shared office space with him in the late 1930's and had perfected a reduced writing instrument which he had attempted to sell to the U.S.-government. CARGILLE recalled on one occasion he accompanied NICHOLS to a safe company located lower Broadway near Canal St., NYC, and had a discussion with a third, unknown individual at the safe company concerning selling NICHOLS' invention to the Russian government. CARGILLE stated NICHOLS felt his invention was best suited for intelligence work. HARRY ROSS, 70 W. Broadway, NYC, recalled NICHOLS invented a reduced writing instrument, was unable to furnish any pertinent information. Inquiry at Diebold Safe Corp., NYC, negative.

- RUC -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *Declassified*  
DATE *2/21/78* *AP/BS*

**DETAILS:**

Mr. R. P. CARGILLE, 117 Liberty Street, New York City, was interviewed January 27, 1953 and February 2, 1953. Mr. CARGILLE recalled that LYMAN NICHOLS shared office space with him for approximately three years up to approximately 1940. Mr. CARGILLE explained NICHOLS spent little or no time in the office but used it as more of a mailing address. Mr. CARGILLE described NICHOLS as "tops" in the microscopic field and an individual without any formal educational background. He stated that he

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		INDEXED - 123
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*68 MAR 17 1953*

\* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-6020-6

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

had no knowledge of NICHOLS using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as background or having any interest in metallurgy.

CARGILLE recalled that he originally met NICHOLS in the late 1930's through one HARRY ROSS, 70 West Broadway, New York City, who deals in optical supplies and microscopes, and it was as a result of this introduction that CARGILLE agreed to allow NICHOLS to use his office space. Mr. CARGILLE pointed out that he is a broker and attempts to sell ideas and new products to interested purchasers. He recalls that NICHOLS had constructed a reduced writing instrument which through the use of a microscope would reduce writings of letter size to pinpoint size. He recalled that NICHOLS felt there was little commercial value to his invention and that the best usage was in intelligence and secret service field. NICHOLS tried to interest the United States government in his invention but nothing ever came of it.

Sometime after Europe was at war but before the United States was at war, probably in 1940, CARGILLE recalled accompanying NICHOLS to the offices of a safe company, the name of which he could not recall. The name Diebold Safe Company was suggested to Mr. CARGILLE by the reporting Agent and he stated it could possibly be the Diebold Safe Company. He could not recall why he accompanied NICHOLS but stated he had been trying to get NICHOLS' invention on the market and possibly someone had suggested an individual at this company to either NICHOLS or himself. In any event, NICHOLS and CARGILLE visited this individual at the safe company, which was located on Broadway close to Canal Street, New York City, and CARGILLE believed the individual to be in a position of authority and recalled him to be in his middle forties, short and heavy set. He stated he was unable to remember the person's name.

This unknown individual told CARGILLE and NICHOLS that he was familiar with secret service and intelligence matters and a discussion took place concerning the necessity of slipping secret messages through enemy lines during war time and how NICHOLS' reduced writing instrument might be of value. CARGILLE recalled that mention was made by this unknown individual of the Russian government's interest and that if the invention was acceptable to the Russian government it might necessitate NICHOLS going to Russia. CARGILLE pointed out that NICHOLS' ability would be absolutely essential to the successful operation of the reduced writing instrument. He could not recall any other negotiations concerning NICHOLS and the reduced writing instrument and stated that to his knowledge nothing ever came out of this meeting.

Mr. CARGILLE stated that he would review his notes and diaries in an attempt to secure additional information, and on February 2, 1953, advised he had located a diary reflecting two possibly pertinent entries: "March 14, 1940. J. GAUER called re micro sharp", and "March 19, 1940. Secret service representative called re micro sharp". CARGILLE recalled that NICHOLS and he used the name micro sharp as a code name for the reduced writing instrument. He stated at this time he was negotiating with another invention named

NY 65-15474

"Sea Sharp" in the photography field and possibly he had thought of the name micro sharp. CARGILLE believed that J. BAUER could possibly be the individual from the safe company and that the notation "secret service representative" could also apply to J. BAUER as he recalled that the individual at the safe company stated he was familiar with secret service and intelligence work and possibly, he CARGILLE, referred to him as such in his diary. Mr. CARGILLE again stated that NICHOLS' invention had no commercial potential and was designed primarily for intelligence work. CARGILLE stated that sometime in the early 1940's he had NICHOLS' name removed from the door.

CARGILLE recalled one, first name unknown, MC GUCKIN, 121 West Side Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey, as a friend of NICHOLS and familiar with micro sharp. He stated this address was approximately ten years old but that the current address of MC GUCKIN's son is FLOYD R. MC GUCKIN, 314 North Monroe Street, Ridgewood, New Jersey.

Mr. CARGILLE stated that he believed NICHOLS to be a loyal and trustworthy American.

HARRY ROSS, 70 West Broadway, New York City, was interviewed on February 10, 1953, and advised that he knew that LYMAN NICHOLS was working on a reduced writing instrument in the late 1930's but was unable to furnish any further details. He stated that he used to give NICHOLS jobs in the late 1930's but had little or no contact with him since 1940. Mr. ROSS knew of no occasion when NICHOLS represented himself as an MIT graduate or displayed interest in metallurgy. Mr. ROSS stated one JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, Ridgewood, New Jersey, was a close friend of NICHOLS and would be in a position to furnish information concerning NICHOLS and the reduced writing instrument. He mentioned that JOHN MC GUCKIN has of late been in ill health. Mr. ROSS stated that from 1940 on NICHOLS had become quite independent and that he was unable to furnish any information from that date on concerning him. He believed that he had probably introduced NICHOLS to CARGILLE sometime in the late 1930's. Mr. ROSS knew of no information of a derogatory nature concerning NICHOLS' patriotism or loyalty.

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that Diebold, Inc., was engaged in the manufacture of safes, bank vaults, office systems, and microfilming equipment, and maintains New York branch sales offices at 2 West 45 Street and 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, along with sales offices located in thirty-eight principal cities and nineteen sub-offices. The offices and main plant are located at 800-822 Mulberry Road, S.E., Canton, Ohio.

Mr. E. P. GALLAGHER, Diebold Safe Corporation, 2 West 45 Street, New York City, advised that no records are maintained by the company in New York City; that all records are located at the company's main office, Canton, Ohio. Mr. GALLAGHER stated that records of all contacts of Diebold Company representatives are maintained but was unable to state the length of time. He stated

NY 65-15474

that the Diebold Company was in the microfilm field and would possibly be interested in a reduced writing instrument. GALLAGHER advised that there was no individual presently employed in New York City by the company named BAUER. He recommended that contact be made with Diebold, Inc., 818 Mulberry Road, S.E., Canton, Ohio, in an effort to locate a file on the NICHOLS' negotiations. Mr. GALLAGHER advised that Diebold Company formerly had an office at 321 Broadway, New York City.

It is to be noted that the address 321 Broadway, New York City, is in the vicinity of Canal Street.

- RUC -

NY 65-15474

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

INFORMANT

T-1

CSNY-1

MISCELLANEOUS

For the information of the Cleveland Office, THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, has advised that he was instructed by his superior, PAUL PETERSEN, in 1935, to locate one NICHOLS (phonetic) in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and re-establish contact with him. PETERSEN described NICHOLS as a metallurgist and a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology who had previously given valuable information to the Soviets. It is BLACK's recollection that PETERSEN told him that NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy and may have tutored Russian students at MIT. LYMAN NICHOLS is presently being considered as a possible suspect for Unsub NICHOLS although investigation has reflected that he did not attend MIT nor has it been developed that he had any interest in metallurgy.

A copy of this report is being designated for the Denver Office in view of the fact LYMAN NICHOLS presently resides within their Division.

LEADS

CLEVELAND

AT CANTON, OHIO

Will, at Diebold, Inc., 818 Mulberry Road, S.E., ascertain if the files of the corporation reflect any information concerning negotiations with LYMAN NICHOLS, 117 Liberty Street, New York City, in approximately 1940, concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

Will ascertain if an individual named BAUER was an employee of the Diebold Company in New York City in the late 1930's and early 1940's and, if so, further identify him.

NEWARK

AT RIDGEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

Will interview JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, for any information he might possess concerning NICHOLS' reduced writing instrument.

REFERENCE

Report of SA WILLIAM E. ROBINSON, Denver, 12/8/52

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

NC

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>2/26/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>1/27/2/2,10, 17,18/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>RICHARD A. MINIHAN</b>
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

R. P. CARGILLE, 117 Liberty St., NYC, advised that LYMAN NICHOLS shared office space with him in the late 1930's and had perfected a reduced writing instrument which he had attempted to sell to the U.S. government. CARGILLE recalled on one occasion he accompanied NICHOLS to a safe company located lower Broadway near Canal St., NYC, and had a discussion with a third, unknown individual at the safe company concerning selling NICHOLS' invention to the Russian government. CARGILLE stated NICHOLS felt his invention was best suited for intelligence work. HARRY ROSS, 70 W. Broadway, NYC, recalled NICHOLS invented a reduced writing instrument, was unable to furnish any pertinent information. Inquiry at Diebold Safe Corp., NYC, negative.

- END -

**DETAILS:**

Mr. R. P. CARGILLE, 117 Liberty Street, New York City, was interviewed January 27, 1953 and February 2, 1953. Mr. CARGILLE recalled that LYMAN NICHOLS shared office space with him for approximately three years up to approximately 1940. Mr. CARGILLE explained NICHOLS spent little or no time in the office but used it as more of a mailing address. Mr. CARGILLE described NICHOLS as "tops" in the microscopic field and an individual without any formal educational background. He stated that he

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/1/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/26-28/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>STUART E. CHALIFOUX cmg</b>
TITLE <b>N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

JOHN MC GUCKIN, Ridgewood, N. J., advises he has been acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS since approximately 1940. Aided subject in construction of reduced writing instrument. Knows of no attempts on part of LYMAN NICHOLS to sell instrument. Unable to furnish any information as to subject's possible dealings with Diebold Safe Corporation, New York City.

**DETAILS:**

It is noted that Mr. HARRY ROSS, 70 West Broadway, New York City, who was previously interviewed in connection with this case, advised that JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, Ridgewood, N. J., was a close friend of LYMAN NICHOLS and would possibly be in a position to furnish information concerning LYMAN NICHOLS and his reduced writing instrument.

**COPIES DESTROYED**

R 12 NOV 23 1960

JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, Ridgewood, N. J., advised that he has been acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS, who formerly resided in Nutley, N. J., and presently resides in the

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<b>COPY IN FILE</b>		<b>65-59395+ 63</b>	<b>RECORDED-77</b>
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82 APR 10 1953		APR 21 1953 12 ESP SEC	EX-107

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NK 65-4116

vicinity of Denver, Colo., since approximately 1940.

He stated that he originally became acquainted with him because of their mutual interest in microscopy. He advised that both he and LYMAN NICHOLS were members of a microscopic society in New York City.

MC GUCKIN stated that in the early 1940's NICHOLS contacted him for advice and aid concerning a reduced writing instrument with which NICHOLS was experimenting at the time. In this regard, MC GUCKIN noted that NICHOLS was considered to be a poor mechanic, although he had an extremely keen analytical mind.

MC GUCKIN stated that at that time NICHOLS requested that he do some mechanical work for him in connection with the reduced writing instrument with which he was experimenting. MC GUCKIN stated that he did certain mechanical work for NICHOLS on this reduced writing instrument and thereafter from time to time he did other work of a mechanical nature for NICHOLS.

He advised that as a result of this association, he and his wife formed a fairly close social relationship with the NICHOLS family and did occasionally visit at the NICHOLS' residence. MC GUCKIN stated that NICHOLS had never said anything to him which would have indicated that he was attempting to sell his reduced writing instrument, and he could furnish no information concerning any negotiations which might have taken place between NICHOLS and the Diebold Safe and Lock Company of New York City.

MC GUCKIN stated that NICHOLS had apparently been working on his reduced writing instrument for many years, but because of his poor mechanical ability the instruments which he had been able to produce by himself were rather crude and did not produce the desired result. He advised that the instrument on which he worked with NICHOLS was a more advanced model than anything NICHOLS had been able to produce himself and was capable of reducing writing to one one-thousandth of its original size.

MC GUCKIN advised that he knew nothing of NICHOLS' background and would be unable to state whether NICHOLS had a college education.

NH 65-4116

He stated that when he originally made NICHOLS' acquaintance, it appeared that NICHOLS was in rather dire financial straits and had little or no income. He advised, however, that during the war NICHOLS obtained contracts from the Government and from various companies which were doing work on Government contracts for the making of reticules, which are used in binoculars and gunsites. MC GUCKIN believed that NICHOLS had apparently done a good deal of this work since he apparently made quite a bit of money during the war.

He advised that NICHOLS is a person who is inclined to be of a nervous disposition because of the exacting nature of his work and would probably be considered peculiar by persons who were not well acquainted with him. He stated, however, that from his own observation he had no doubt of NICHOLS' loyalty to the Government of the United States.

MC GUCKIN advised that he last saw NICHOLS shortly before he left for Denver, Colo., and has had no contact with him since that time.

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEAD

NEWARK OFFICE

At Newark, N. J.

Will, upon the completion of investigation by the Cleveland Office, submit recommendations as to the advisability of conducting further investigation in this case.

REFERENCE

Report of SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN, dated 2/26/53  
at New York.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/1/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/26-28/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>STUART E. CHALIFOUX cmg</b>
TITLE <b>N. J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

JOHN MC GUCKIN, Ridgewood, N. J., advises he has been acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS since approximately 1940. Aided subject in construction of reduced writing instrument. Knows of no attempts on part of LYMAN NICHOLS to sell instrument. Unable to furnish any information as to subject's possible dealings with Diebold Safe Corporation, New York City.

\* \* P \* \*

DETAILS:

It is noted that Mr. HARRY ROSS, 70 West Broadway, New York City, who was previously interviewed in connection with this case, advised that JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, Ridgewood, N. J., was a close friend of LYMAN NICHOLS and would possibly be in a position to furnish information concerning LYMAN NICHOLS and his reduced writing instrument.

JOHN MC GUCKIN, 121 West End Avenue, Ridgewood, N. J., advised that he has been acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS, who formerly resided in Nutley, N. J., and presently resides in the

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**FORM NO. 1**  
**THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT**

# NEWARK

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION NO. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

REPORT MADE AT <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/30/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3-26; 4-20-53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>HAROLD E. WEIDA</b> mrd
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## **SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

GEORGE BOCKIUS, President, Diebold Co., Inc., Canton, Ohio, advised company files contain no record of negotiations with LYMAN NICHOLS. Nor do records reflect employee by the name of BAUER in the New York office. BOCKIUS does not recall any negotiations relating to "micro sharp." Former employees of the York Safe Co., New York, are now in Diebold's employ at the New York office.

R.U.C.—

**DETAILS:**

"At Canton, Ohio.

GEORGE BOCKIUS, President, Diebold Company, Incorporated, 318 Mulberry Road, S.E., advised that the company's negotiation file only dates back to 1948 and there is no information contained therein concerning "micro sharp" or a reduced writing instrument, nor was there any record of negotiations conducted with LYMAN NICHOLS. BOCKIUS related that the Diebold Company did not become interested in microfilming until 1943, and VERN PRATT, who was a former Diebold employee, developed this technique for the company.

BOCKIUS disclosed that PRATT is now retired and resides at Silver Mine, Connecticut.

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FORWARDED:

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20 MAY 1968

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~~בְּרֵבָדָה וְבְרֵבָתָה~~

RECORDED INDEXED 37

**RECORDED BY**

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CV. F. O.  
65-2943

which is located just outside of Norwalk, Connecticut. PRATT had a wide acquaintance among people in the microscopic field and quite possibly would have known NICHOLS, according to BOCKIUS.

BOCKIUS stated that ELMER NELSON is presently Branch Manager of their New York office and possibly may recall any negotiations concerning a reduced writing instrument if the Diebold Company was actually contacted. He also named RANDY FREER and GEORGE LUNCH, former employees of the York Safe and Lock Company, which Diebold bought out, as possibly being able to furnish any information in the event NICHOLS had contacted their organization concerning his reduced writing instrument.

Mr. BOCKIUS stated that the company's records failed to reflect that they ever had an individual named BAUER employed in their New York office.

BOCKIUS further related that there are only two other safe companies, all of which were located in the general vicinity of the Diebold office in New York, and NICHOLS may have contacted one of these organizations concerning his reduced writing instrument. He identified these as the Mosler Safe Company, located at Fifth Avenue and 33rd Street, New York, and the Marvin Safe Company, New York.

R U C

CV. F. O.  
65-2943

ADMINISTRATIVE

For the information of the New Haven Office, THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, has advised that he was instructed by his superior, PAUL PETERSEN, in 1935 to locate one LYMAN NICHOLS (phonetic) in East Rutherford, New Jersey and re-establish contact with him. PETERSEN described NICHOLS as a metallurgist and a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who had previously given valuable information to the Soviets. It is BLACK's recollection that PETERSEN told him that NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy and may have tutored Russian students at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. LYMAN NICHOLS is presently being considered as a possible suspect for the unknown subject NICHOLS, although investigation has reflected that he did not attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, nor has it been developed that he had any interest in metallurgy.

*1/28/54  
Searched*

LEADS

NEW HAVEN

At Norwalk, Connecticut

Will contact VERN PRUITT, Silver Mine, Connecticut, and ascertain if he was acquainted with LYMAN NICHOLS or if he knew of any negotiations in approximately 1940 concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

NEW YORK

At New York, New York

Will contact RANDY FREER and GEORGE LEACH, employees, Diebold Company, New York sales office, and former employees of the York Safe Company, to ascertain if they recall any negotiations between LYMAN NICHOLS and the York Safe Company concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

Will contact officials of the Marvin Safe Company and the Mosler Safe Company to determine if LYMAN NICHOLS ever contacted them regarding a reduced writing instrument in approximately 1940.

REFERENCE: Report of S. RICHARD A. MINIHAN, 2-26-53, New York

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEWARK

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT MADE AT <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/30/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3-26; 4-20-53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>HAROLD E. WEIDA mrd</b>
TITLE <b>NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**GEORGE BOCKIUS**, President, Diebold Co., Inc., Canton, Ohio, advised company files contain no record of negotiations with **LYMAN NICHOLS**. Nor do records reflect employee by the name of **BAUER** in the New York office. **BOCKIUS** does not recall any negotiations relating to "micro sharp." Former employees of the York Safe Co., New York, are now in Diebold's employ at the New York office.

- R U C -

## DETAILS:

At Canton, Ohio

**GEORGE BOCKIUS**, President, Diebold Company, Incorporated, 518 Mulberry Road, S.E., advised that the company's negotiation file only dates back to 1948 and there is no information contained therein concerning "micro sharp" or a reduced writing instrument, nor was there any record of negotiations conducted with **LYMAN NICHOLS**. **BOCKIUS** related that the Diebold Company did not become interested in microfilming until 1943, and **VERN PRATT**, who was a former Diebold employee, developed this technique for the company.

**BOCKIUS** disclosed that **PRATT** is now retired and resides at Silver Mine, Connecticut.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

REPORT MADE AT NEW HAVEN, CONN.	DATE WHEN MADE 6/5/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/1/53	REPORT MADE BY FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE FXM:rz
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Identity of LYMAN NICHOLS unknown to VERNEUR E. PRATT of Norwalk, Conn., developer of microfilming technique. PRATT, a former employee of Diebold Co., Inc., has no knowledge of any negotiations had with Diebold or any other company concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913

ON 2/18/78 BY/CJg.

DETAILS:

GEORGE BOCKIUS, President, Diebold Company, Incorporated, 818 Mulberry Road, S. E., Canton, Ohio, has advised that VERN PRATT, a former employee of Diebold, who developed the microfilming technique for Diebold, has a wide acquaintance among people in the microscopic field and might possibly know suspect LYMAN NICHOLS.

On June 1, 1953, VERNEUR E. PRATT, 186 Perry Avenue, Silvermine, Norwalk, Connecticut, a retired business executive, informed Special Agent HUGO P. BLANDORI and the writer that the identity of LYMAN NICHOLS was unknown. Mr. PRATT, a former employee of Diebold Company, Incorporated, in addition explained that he had no knowledge of any negotiations had with Diebold or any other company concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings. Mr. PRATT recalled that while employed with Diebold between the years 1934 and 1938, a Mr. BENNETT F. TERRY, a Chemist and a former employee of International Business Machines (IBM), had taken him to see an individual who

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5 - Bureau (65-59395) (RM) 3 - Newark (65-4116) (RM) 1 - New York (Info) (65-15474) (RM) 2 - New Haven (65-1446)	JUN. 8 1953	EX-121
		APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING

NH 65-1446

had reduced the Lord's Prayer by use of a panograph and a cutting diamond and had placed same on a microslide with result that it was not possible to see the Prayer on the slide unless it was examined under a microscope. Mr. PRATT was unable to recall the name of the individual but indicated that possibly Mr. TERRY might furnish additional information.

On June 1, 1953, Mr. BENNETT F. TERRY, 44 Davenport Drive, Stamford, Connecticut, advised that he recalled the incident when he had exhibited a slide to VERNER E. PRATT which contained the Lord's Prayer after same had been reduced by means of a panograph and a cutting diamond to a point where it was invisible to the human eye. Mr. TERRY stated that the person who had reduced the Prayer was an individual whose name was either MC CRAY (phonetic) or MC CUNE (phonetic), who is now deceased and who was at the time, from the period 1934 to 1938, an old man who resided near Albany, New York. Mr. TERRY stated that the name LYMAN NICHOLS was certainly not familiar to him, and he was unable to furnish any pertinent information relating to subject inquiry.

- RUC -

NH 65-1446

ADMINISTRATIVE

LEAD

One copy of instant report has been furnished to the New York Division for information, as the New York Office currently has leads outstanding within that territory.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent HAROLD E. WEIDA dated April 30, 1953, at Cleveland, Ohio

2

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT: NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

REPORT MADE AT:	DATE WHEN MADE:	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:	REPORT MADE BY:
NEW HAVEN, CONN.	6/5/53	6/1/53	FRANCIS X. MC BRIDE FMM:ra

TITLE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT; East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant	CHARACTER OF CASE: ESPIONAGE - R
--	-------------------------------------

## SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Identity of LYMAN NICHOLS unknown to VERNEUR E. PRATT of Norwalk, Conn., developer of microfilming technique. PRATT, a former employee of Diebold Co., Inc., has no knowledge of any negotiations had with Diebold or any other company concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

- RUC -

## DETAILS:

GEORGE BOCKIUS, President, Diebold Company, Incorporated, 818 Mulberry Road, S. W., Canton, Ohio, has advised that VERN PRATT, a former employee of Diebold, who developed the microfilming technique for Diebold, has a wide acquaintance among people in the microscopic field and might possibly know suspect LYMAN NICHOLS.

On June 1, 1953, VERNEUR E. PRATT, 186 Perry Avenue, Silvermine, Norwalk, Connecticut, a retired business executive, informed Special Agent HUGO P. BLANDORI and the writer that the identity of LYMAN NICHOLS was unknown. Mr. PRATT, a former employee of Diebold Company, Incorporated, in addition explained that he had no knowledge of any negotiations had with Diebold or any other company concerning a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings. Mr. PRATT recalled that while employed with Diebold between the years 1934 and 1938, a Mr. BENNETT P. TERRY, a Chemist and a former employee of International Business Machines (IBM) had taken him to one or individual who

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 1 - New York (Info) (65-15474) (RM)  
 2 - New Haven (65-1446)

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 6/8/53

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N. J.;

THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant

ESPIONAGE - R

Rerep of SA HAROLD E. WEIDA, 4/30/53, Cleveland, O.

*Bc*

A review of the above-captioned file in this case reflects all logical investigation has been conducted in an effort to identify the Unknown Subject having the last name NICHOLS, whom THOMAS L. BLACK has advised he was instructed to contact by his superior, PAUL PETERSON, in 1935. It is noted that with the exception of LYMAN NICHOLS, who formerly resided in Nutley, N. J., and who presently resides in the vicinity of Denver, Colo., none of the persons investigated have in any way fit the background information which was furnished by BLACK.

From information furnished by BLACK, NICHOLS was supposedly a metallurgist, a graduate of the Mass. Institute of Technology and had a hobby of microscopy. Investigation to date fails to reflect that LYMAN NICHOLS was a metallurgist and there is no indication that he has had a college education.

The only leads presently outstanding in this case were set forth in referenced report for the New Haven and New York Offices. In the event these leads prove unproductive, no further investigation is contemplated by this office.

The New York and New Haven Offices are requested to expedite coverage of leads as set forth in referenced report in order that this case may be brought to a logical conclusion.

## REGISTERED MAIL

1 cc: New Haven (REGISTERED MAIL)

1 cc: New York (65-15474) (REGISTERED MAIL)

SEC:mp

RECORDED - 106

INDEXED - 106

JUN 10 1953

17

78  
ESPIONAGE  
128

55 JUN 25 1953

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT NEWARK

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/24/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/23/53	REPORT MADE BY RICHARD A. MINIHAN
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: RANDY FREER, Diebold Co., NYC, has no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument. No pertinent information developed to date at Marvin Safe Co., or Mosler Safe Co.

- P -

DETAILS: Mr. RANDY FREER, Diebold Company, 2 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y., advised that he had no recollection of any negotiations concerning a reduced writing instrument and LYMAN NICHOLS. He further advised that he knew of no individual associated with the company now or in the past named BAUER. He stated that Mr. ELMER NELSON was presently in Europe and due to return in July and Mr. GEORGE LEACH was out of the city travelling. He thought that these individuals would possess some knowledge of NICHOLS if he had contacted Diebold Co.

Mr. PERCY H. HOWLAND, Haring, Hall & Marvin Safe Company, 22 West 32nd Street, New York, N.Y., advised that he was employed by the company in 1940 at which time the company offices were located at 137 Varick Street, New York City. He stated that he has no recollection of any negotiations concerning a reduced writing instrument or of any individual named LYMAN NICHOLS. He stated that the company records are maintained by Mr. WARREN MOSMAN, Haring, Hall & Marvin Safe Co., Hamilton, Ohio, and that Mr. MOSMAN was associated with the company in New York City in 1940 and would possibly recall NICHOLS if he had contacted the company.

Mr. HAROLD MORTON, Mosler Safe Company, 320 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., advised that the only individual who would be in a position to recall LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument was Mr. JOHN MOSLER who was presently travelling on a business trip and due to return to New York City in July.

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SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

NY 65-15474

ADMINISTRATIVE

For the information of the Cincinnati Office, THOMAS L. BLACK, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, has advised that he was instructed by his superior, PAUL PETERSEN, in 1935 to locate one NICHOLS (phonetic) in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and re-establish contact with him. PETERSEN described NICHOLS as a metallurgist and a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who had previously given valuable information to the Soviets. It is BLACK'S recollection that PETERSEN told him that NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy and may have tutored Russian students at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. LYMAN NICHOLS is presently being considered as a possible suspect for the unknown subject NICHOLS, although investigation has reflected that he did not attend MIT, nor has it been developed that he had any interest in metallurgy.

LEADS

CINCINNATI

At Cincinnati, Ohio

Cincinnati will contact Mr. WARREN MOSMAN, Haring, Hall & Marvin Safe Company, Hamilton, Ohio, and interview him concerning any knowledge he might have concerning one LYMAN NICHOLS who contacted an individual at a safe company in New York City in 1940, and attempted to arrange for the sale of a reduced writing instrument based on microscopic writings.

Will review any available company records for information concerning LYMAN NICHOLS.

NEW YORK

At New York City

Will interview Mr. ELMER NELSON and Mr. GEORGE LEACH, Diebold Safe Company, New York City, upon their return.

Will interview Mr. JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Company, upon his return to New York City.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA Harold E. Weida at Cleveland, 4/30/53.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Form No. 1**  
**THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT**

## **NEWARK**

RAMA DE

REPORT MADE AT <u>NEW YORK</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>6/24/53</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>6/23/53</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>RICHARD A. MINIHAN</u>
TITLE  UNKNOWN SUBJECT; <u>NICHOLS,</u> <u>East Rutherford, New Jersey;</u> <u>THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</u>	CHARACTER OF CASE  <u>ESPIONAGE - R</u>		

### **SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

RANDY FREEMAN, Diebold Co., ETC, has no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument. No pertinent information developed to date at Marvin Safe Co., or Mosler Safe Co.

P

### **DETAILS.**

**DETAILS:** Mr. RANDY FREER, Diebold Company, 2 West 45th Street, New York, N.Y., advised that he had no recollection of any negotiations concerning a reduced writing instrument and LYMAN NICHOLS. He further advised that he knew of no individual associated with the company now or in the past named BAUER. He stated that Mr. ELMER NELSON was presently in Europe and due to return in July and Mr. GEORGE LEACH was out of the city travelling. He thought that these individuals would possess some knowledge of NICHOLS if he had contacted Diebold Co.

Mr. PERCY H. HOWLAND, Haring, Hall & Marvin Safe Company, 22 West 32nd Street, New York, N.Y., advised that he was employed by the company in 1940 at which time the company offices were located at 137 Varick Street, New York City. He stated that he has no recollection of any negotiations concerning a reduced writing instrument or of any individual named LYMAN NICHOLS. He stated that the company records are maintained by Mr. WARREN MOSMAN, Haring, Hall & Marvin Safe Co., Hamilton, Ohio, and that Mr. MOSMAN was associated with the company in New York City in 1940 and would possibly recall NICHOLS if he had contacted the company.

Mr. HAROLD MORTON, Mosler Safe Company, 320 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y., advised that the only individual who would be in a position to recall LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument was Mr. JOHN MOSLER who was presently travelling on a business trip and due to return to New York City in July.

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### 3.3. SYSTEMATIC APPROACHES FOR THE

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59395) DATE: July 22, 1953

FROM : SAC, Newark (65-4116)

SUBJECT: D NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.;  
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant.  
Espionage - R N.J.

Re report of Special Agent HAROLD E. WEIDA dated 4-30-53, at Cleveland, and Newark letter to Bureau dated June 8, 1953.

Inasmuch as the only outstanding leads in this matter, as set out in referenced report, request investigation in the New York Division, it is requested that these leads be expedited in order that this case can be brought to a logical conclusion.

## REGISTERED MAIL

1 - cc New York (65-15474)

## REGISTERED MAIL

BET:MEM

G. I. R. -I

RECORDED - 64 165-59395-68  
INDEXED - 64 25 JUL 24 1953  
G. I. R. -I

30 JUL 31 1953

AIR-TEL  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NEW YORK, 7/21/53

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

BUREAU

UNSUB: NICHOLAS, EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ; THOMAS L. BLACK,  
INFORMANT - R. REREP SA. RICHARD A. MINIHAN 6/24/53, NY. THROUGH  
OVERSIGHT NO COPIES OF REFERENCED REPORT WERE FURNISHED NEWARK  
OFFICE. COPIES ARE BEING FORWARDED.

BOARDMAN

3 - BUREAU (65-59395) (REGULAR MAIL)  
2 - NEWARK (65-4116) REGULAR MAIL

RAM:MKC (#6)  
NY 65-15474

RECORDED-88

165-59395-69

JUL 22 1953

63 AUG 4 1953

5-62

Approved: LVB *Red*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Office Memorandum • UNITEL'S GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 7/29/53

LV<sup>B</sup> FROM : SAC, New York (65-15474)

REDO  
SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT: NICHOLS,  
East Rutherford, New Jersey;  
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant  
ESPIONAGE-R

Rerep SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN, at NY, dated 6/24/53.

Mr. ELMER NELSON and Mr. GEORGE LERCH, Diebold Safe Company, 2 West 45th St., New York, New York, advised that they had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument. They further stated that they knew of no individual associated with a safe company named BAUER.

Mr. JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Company, 320 5th Ave., New York City, advised that he had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS, a reduced writing instrument or an individual named BAUER. Mr. MOSLER inquired of all personnel presently with the company and associated with the company, during the pertinent period, and advised that he was unable to develop any information in this matter. -RUC-

RECORDED-59/65-59395-70

2A JUL 30 1953

1- Newark (65-4116)

REGISTERED MAIL

RAM:EPW

63 AUG 7 1953

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT NICHOLS,  
East Rutherford, New Jersey;  
THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant  
ESPIONAGE - R

DATE: 8/4/53

Rerep SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN, New York, dated June 24, 1953.

The only investigation remaining in this matter is that requested in referenced reported based on leads at Cincinnati, Ohio.

It is requested that Cincinnati effect prompt coverage of this lead in order that this matter may be brought to a logical conclusion.

cc: Cincinnati

BET:jms

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-33165-59395-71  
AUG 12 1953

AUG 12 1953

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Form No. 1**  
**THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT**

NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT CINCINNATI, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 8-10-53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-16; 8-3-53	REPORT MADE BY EDWARD P. HOGAN MJM
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT; East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant	CHARACTER OF CASE ESPIONAGE - R		

### **SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

WARREN MOSMAN, President, Herring, Hall, and Marvin Safe Company, Hamilton, Ohio, advised he has no recollection of anyone by the name of NICHOLS or any reduced writing instrument.

- RUC -

**DETAILS:** AT HAMILTON, OHIO

Mr. WARREN MOSMAN, President, Herring, Hall, and Marvin Safe Company, advised that he has no knowledge of anyone by the name of NICHOLS or LYMAN NICHOLS, nor does he recall anyone contacting him regarding a reduced writing instrument. Mr. MOSMAN also advised that he could not recall whether he was in New York in 1940 or not, but was of the opinion that it wasn't until 1941, when he was in New York.

- RUC -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *declass*  
DATE 2/21/78 AM

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R 12 NOV 23 1980

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 3/18/78 APP/rjg

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	A. G. E.	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
			65- 59395-72	RECORDED - 54
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6? AUG 26 1953 (23)

☆ G. S. GOVINDARAJ

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

CIN. 65-1915

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

REFERENCE: Report of SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN, 6-24-53, New York.

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

REMARK

REPORT MADE AT <b>CINCINNATI, OHIO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8-10-53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7-16; 8-3-53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>EDWARD P. HOGAN EPH</b>
TITLE <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; NICHOLS, East Rutherford, New Jersey; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WARREN MOSKAN, President, Herring, Hall, and Marvin Safe Company, Hamilton, Ohio, advised he has no recollection of anyone by the name of NICHOLS or any reduced writing instrument.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

AT HAMILTON, OHIO

Mr. WARREN MOSKAN, President, Herring, Hall, and Marvin Safe Company, advised that he has no knowledge of anyone by the name of NICHOLS or LYMAN NICHOLS, nor does he recall anyone contacting him regarding a reduced writing instrument. Mr. MOSKAN also advised that he could not recall whether he was in New York in 1940 or not, but was of the opinion that it wasn't until 1941, when he was in New York.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 BY AP/fg

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\* \* \* CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION \* \* \*

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~ CONFIDENTIAL

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEWARK**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEWARK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/18/53</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>8/14/53</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>BLAKE E. TURNER ab</b>
TITLE  <b>UNKNOWN SUBJECT; NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>ESPIONAGE - R</b>	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

ELMER WILSON and GEORGE LERCH of the Diebold Safe Co., New York City, N.Y., and JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Co., New York City, state they have no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument.

- C -

**DETAILS:**

Mr. ELMER NELSON and Mr. GEORGE LERCH, Diebold Safe Co., 2 W. 45th St., New York City, N.Y., advised they had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument.

Mr. JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Co., 320 5th Ave., New York City, N.Y. advised that he had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument. MOSLER also made inquiry of all personnel presently with the company and those who were associated with the company during the pertinent period and said he was unable to develop any information concerning this matter.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF *declass*  
DATE *2/21/78 AMG/HZ*

DECLASSIFIED BY *4913*  
ON *3/18/78 RP/C59*

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**R 12 NOV 23 1960**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>DSE</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		<b>65-59395-73</b>	
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		RC	
		APR 26 1953	

NK 65-4116

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

One copy of this report is being furnished to New York since it covers investigation conducted by that office.

REFERENCE: New York letter to Bureau and Newark 7/29/53.  
Report of SA RICHARD A. MINIHAN 6/24/53 at New York.  
Report of SA EDWARD P. HOGAN 8/10/53 at Cincinnati.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WORD NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT  
NEWARK

REPORT MADE AT  NEWARK	DATE WHEN MADE  8/18/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  8/14/53	REPORT MADE BY  BLAKET E. TURNER ab
TITLE  UNKNOWN SUBJECT; NICHOLS, East Rutherford, N.J.; THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant		CHARACTER OF CASE  ESPIONAGE - R	

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

ELMER WILSON and GEORGE LERCH of the Diebold Safe Co., New York City, N.Y., and JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Co., New York City, state they have no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument.

- C -

**DETAILS:**

Mr. ELMER NELSON and Mr. GEORGE LERCH, Diebold Safe Co., 2 W. 45th St., New York City, N.Y., advised they had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument.

Mr. JOHN MOSLER, Mosler Safe Co., 320 5th Ave., New York City, N.Y. advised that he had no recollection of LYMAN NICHOLS or a reduced writing instrument. MOSLER also made inquiry of all personnel presently with the company and those who were associated with the company during the pertinent period and said he was unable to develop any information concerning this matter.

- C -

DECLASSIFIED BY 4913  
ON 2/18/78 AP/EG

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 8/18/53

FROM : SAC NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNSUB: ONTRIOLS,  
E. Rutherford, N.J.;  
THOMAS L BLACK, Informant  
ESPIONAGE - R

Attached are copies of report of SA BLAKE E. TURNER dated 8/18/53  
at Newark.

A review of this file reflects that all outstanding leads  
have been covered and no further investigation remains to be conducted.

Inasmuch as investigation has failed to identify definitely  
the unknown subject and since all logical investigation has been  
conducted, this case is being closed.

REG. MAIL

Encl. 5

cc: New York (65-15474) (Encl. 1) (REG. MAIL)

BET:ab

RECORDED-45

65-59395-73

REC'D AUG 19 1953

REC'D 8/18/53  
EFV

SAC, Newark (65-4116)

September 4, 1953.

RECORDED - 24 Director, FBI (65-59395)-73

UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa:

Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey;

Thomas L. Black, Informant

ESPIONAGE - B

Re Newark let 8-18-53, and the closing report of SA Blake E. Turner dated 8-18-53, at Newark.

The Bureau agrees that this case should be closed; however, before this case is placed in a closed status, Newark is instructed to submit a memorandum for the "Unsolved Situations" file. The memorandum should bear the same caption as instant memorandum; however, the words "Unsolved Situations" should be added to the title and the Bureau file number should be designated as 65-57771. The memorandum should contain a brief summary of Black's allegation in this matter. There should also be set out a brief resume of the facts concerning the chief suspect developed, namely, Lyman Nichols.

From a review of Bureau files in this matter, it appears that Lyman Nichols could have been the individual Black was sent to see in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Rerep SA William E. Robinson dated 12-8-52, at Denver. Rerep reflects that Lyman Nichols admitted to Bureau agents that in 1937 or 1938, he called at the Amtorg Trading Corporation, New York City, and exhibited to Amtorg officials his process of microscopic writing and that the Amtorg officials advised him that they were referring the matter to the Russian Ambassador, Washington, D. C. Nichols advised that he was later advised that the Russians were not interested in his process because it was not developed by their own intelligence agency. It should be noted, as pointed out in Bulet to Newark 12-1-52, that Lyman Nichols advised Bureau agents in 1941 that he had offered to sell his reduced writing equipment to Amtorg sometime prior to 1941. Nichols first offered to sell his reduced writing equipment to the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy and has also

Tolson —  
Ladd —  
Nichols —  
Belmont —  
Clegg —  
Glavin —  
Harbo —  
Rosen —  
Tracy —  
Geary —  
Mohr —  
Winterrowd —  
Tele. Room —  
Holloman —  
Sizemore —  
Miss Gandy —

cc - 2 - New York (65-15474)

EFL:bhb

COMM - FBI

SEP 4 1953

MAILED 27

50 SEP 15 1953

EL

offered to sell it to the FBI. From the information developed to date concerning Lyman Nichols, it appears that his intent to sell the reduced writing equipment to Amtorg was motivated entirely by financial reasons. No subversive derogatory information was developed on Lyman Nichols during the investigation.

Although Lyman Nichols does not fit some of the qualifications of the unknown subject as set out by Black and further due to the great length of time since the events transpired, it is believed that Lyman Nichols could very well have been the individual to be contacted by Black. Since no positive conclusion can be reached as to the exact identity of the individual to be contacted by Black, the above-requested memorandum should be submitted by Newark for the "Unsolved Situations" file.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-57771)

DATE: 10/2/53

FROM: SAC, NEWARK (65-New)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa.

Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey;  
 THOMAS L. BLACK - Informant  
 ESPIONAGE - R  
 "UNSOLVED SITUATIONS"

P.J. N.J.

THOMAS LESSING BLACK, self-confessed former Soviet espionage agent, advised Agents of the Philadelphia FBI Office that in about 1935 his Soviet superior, whom he knew as PAUL PETERSEN, instructed him to locate a man named NICHOLS who lived in East Rutherford, N.J., and re-establish contact with him. PETERSEN told BLACK that NICHOLS was a metallurgist who had graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. PETERSEN also stated that NICHOLS had formerly furnished information of considerable value to the Soviets. BLACK was to locate NICHOLS, become acquainted with him, and then report the contact back to PETERSEN for further instructions.

BLACK recalled that NICHOLS had a hobby of microscopy. He also had the impression that NICHOLS may have tutored students at MIT although he had nothing definite on which to base this impression.

BLACK stated he made no serious effort to locate NICHOLS and had no contact with him, although he had some recollection of having located NICHOLS' name in a Rutherford directory. At his next meeting with PETERSEN, BLACK reported he had been unable to locate or contact NICHOLS. PETERSEN said he was certain NICHOLS was in East Rutherford, N.J. and that he would take care of the assignment in some other manner. BLACK could furnish no further information concerning NICHOLS.

Exhaustive investigation was conducted in an effort to identify the individual named NICHOLS, whom BLACK was supposed to have contacted, but no positive identification could be made on the basis of the information

CC: (1) Newark (65-4116)  
 (1) Philadelphia (65-4374)(REG. MAIL)  
 (1) New York (65-15474)(REG. MAIL)

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED-59

INDEXED-59

165-59395-74  
OCT 6 1953

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FX-124

NK 65-New  
Letter to Director, FBI

which BLACK furnished. However, the most logical suspect developed through investigation was one LYMAN NICHOLS, who presently resides at Linderman Lake, Colorado.

Investigation disclosed that LYMAN NICHOLS, 111 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, N.J., was an active member of the New York Microscopical Society for approximately ten years prior to 1951 and was very interested in micrometer data. As of July, 1940, NICHOLS maintained a complete laboratory in his home, where he reportedly produced optical, ocular, and micrometer tools. His occupation was said to be that of a Consulting Engineer.

Investigation further developed NICHOLS had lived in Nutley, N.J. since at least 1932 and had always been self-employed at his residence.

In 1937, NICHOLS attempted to interest the FBI in a system of "reduced writing." In 1941 he attempted to sell a reduced writing instrument to the United States Army and Navy without success. He also offered this instrument for sale to the Amtorg Corp., which is the North American representative of the various Soviet trade and industrial organizations.

In 1941 NICHOLS advised FBI Agents that he was doing delicate work for the government on secret bombsights at his residence.

It should be noted that THOMAS L. BLACK had previously stated that PAUL PETERSEN mentioned to him that the Soviets were experiencing difficulty in getting information out of Germany due to the vigilance of German intelligence. PETERSEN asked BLACK, as a chemist interested in photography, to consider this problem and see if he could devise some means of sending information through regular channels in such a manner as to avoid detection.

BLACK was re-interviewed 12/2/52 for any additional information he might have concerning this matter. He now stated that he was of the opinion that NICHOLS had been interested in microphotography rather than microscopy. He was certain of this because he recalled PETERSEN mentioning the term, microphotography, and stating that BLACK could use this point of mutual interest in getting acquainted with NICHOLS.

Investigation reflected that LYMAN NICHOLS moved to Linderman Lake, Colorado, in December, 1951, where he became self-employed in the field of etching glass.

NK 65-New

Letter to Director, FBI

~~LYMAN NICHOLS~~ was interviewed 12/4/52 at his residence. He advised he was born in Trenton, N.J. on 2/1/1895, was educated at the Newark Academy, Newark, N.J., and had lived in Nutley, N.J. practically all his life. He said he had never attended MIT or tutored Russian students. He stated that all his life he had worked primarily with microscopic etchings and was interested in all branches of microscopy.

NICHOLS stated that sometime between 1937 and 1939, he was contacted by an official or a representative of the Diebold Safe & Lock Co., of New York City, who asked him if he would be interested in selling his reduced writing process to the Russian government. NICHOLS was agreeable and thereafter he visited the offices of the Amtorg Corp. on 5th Ave., New York City, accompanied by the Diebold representative. NICHOLS exhibited his process upon this occasion and was subsequently advised by the Diebold representative that the matter had been referred to the Russian Ambassador. He was further informed that the Ambassador had rejected his process inasmuch as it had not originated within one of Russia's own intelligence agencies.

NICHOLS was unable to recall the names of the Diebold Representative or the Amtorg official to whom he demonstrated his process. He also stated that he knew of no individual named PAUL PETERSEN. Additional investigation failed to identify the Diebold representative.

From the information developed to date concerning LYMAN NICHOLS it appears that his intent to sell the reduced writing equipment to Amtorg was motivated entirely by financial reasons. No subversive, derogatory information was developed on LYMAN NICHOLS during the investigation.

Although LYMAN NICHOLS does not satisfy some of the qualifications of the Unknown Subject as set out by BLACK, it is believed that due to the great length of time since the events transpired, LYMAN NICHOLS could very well have been the individual whom BLACK was to contact. However, no positive conclusion can be reached as to the exact identity of the individual to be contacted by BLACK.

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (65-59395)

DATE: 10/9/53

FROM : SAC, NEWARK (65-4116)

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa.  
 Nichols, East Rutherford, N.J.;  
 THOMAS L. BLACK, Informant  
 ESPIONAGE - R

ReBulet 9/4/53.

By letter dated 10/2/53 the Newark Office submitted a letter to the Bureau with copies to Philadelphia and New York under above caption, with the added caption, "UNSOLVED SITUATIONS", (Bufile 65-57771, NKfile 65-4546).

Please be advised that above memorandum should have been submitted as an enclosure to instant letter and was inadvertently sent without a cover letter.

One copy of the memo was submitted to Philadelphia in the event THOMAS BLACK, the original informant, should recall any further information which would assist in affixing the exact identity of the individual whom he was instructed to contact.

One copy of this memo was also submitted to New York in view of that office's interest in this matter.

Inasmuch as this now completes all outstanding investigation in this matter, no further action will be taken at Newark, and this case is being placed in a closed status.

cc: (1) New York (65-15474)(REG. MAIL)  
 (1) Philadelphia (65-4374)(REG. MAIL)

REGISTERED MAIL

RECORDED 58

INDEXED

165-59395-75

OCT 12 1953

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62 NOV 3 1953

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : W. A. Branigan *71630*  
 FROM : H. W. Schweppes *H.W.S.*

DATE: October 22, 1953

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT, wa  
*Nichols, East Rutherford, New Jersey*  
 THOMAS L. BLACK, INFORMANT  
 ESPIONAGE - P

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Geary \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wasserood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sizemore \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas L. Black, an admitted Soviet espionage agent, advised that he was instructed by his superior, Paul Petersen, in 1935 to locate one Nichols (phonetic) in East Rutherford, New Jersey, and re-establish contact with him. Petersen described Nichols as a metallurgist and a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology who had previously given valuable information to the Soviets. It was Black's recollection that Peter told him that Nichols had a hobby of microscopy and may have tutored Russian students at MIT. Black never located Nichols and never made contact with him. As a result of investigation conducted, and from a review of Bureau files, it appears that one Lyman Nichols could have been the individual Black was sent to see in East Rutherford, New Jersey. Lyman Nichols was interviewed by Bureau agents on 12-4-52, and advised he has been interested in all branches of microscopic work and research. In 1937 or 1938 he offered for sale to Amtorg in New York City his process of microscopic writing. He also offered this process to the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy and the FBI. His contacting Amtorg appears to have been motivated by financial reasons. No subversive derogatory information was developed during the investigation and he stated he was never contacted by any person named Paul Petersen regarding his process. Under date of 10-2-53, Newark, the office of origin, submitted a memorandum in this matter for the "Unsolved Situations" file and by letter of 10-9-53, Newark advised the case was being considered closed. No dissemination has been made in this case and no opinion has been requested of the Department. Suspect Lyman Nichols is on the Security Index.

Although Lyman Nichols does not fit some of the qualifications of the unknown subject set out by Black, it is believed that he could very well be the individual to have been contacted by Black. Due to the great length of time since the events transpired and the fact that Black's thoughts on the matter now are "vague impressions," it appears that no positive conclusion can be reached as to the exact identity of this unknown subject.

INDEXED - 94

RECORDED - 94

OCT 27 1953

62 NOV 3 1953 | In view of the above and since all logical leads appear to have been covered, it is recommended that this case be considered closed.

65-59395

HWS:blb *all*

EX-128

WAB

ESP

1-18

PH 131-794

Director, FBI

7/12/55

B7